

# CROSSROADS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## Spay and Neuter Your Pet

### Why spay or neuter?

Spaying or neutering your pet provides many health and behavioral benefits. It also prevents the unwanted birth of animals for which it might be difficult to find good homes.

### How old does my pet have to be?

Spay or neuter surgery is safe to perform when your pet is as young as eight weeks old. Even if your pet is older, the benefits of spaying or neutering are numerous. At Crossroads Veterinary Hospital we recommend routine spay & neuters at six months of age.

### Benefits for you pet... and you!

- Reduces risk of mammary cancer in females
- Reduces risk of prostate problems and tumors in males
- Altered pets are less likely to roam and are less likely to be aggressive. This helps to prevent pets from becoming lost or stolen, being hit by cars, or contacting a contagious disease through contact with other animals
- Prevents the occurrence of pyometra in females. Pyometra is a bacterial infection of the uterus which can be fatal
- Decreases urine odor in males and makes male cats less likely to spray urine and mark their territory
- Altered pets are less likely to make inappropriate sexual approaches towards people or objects
- Eliminates heat periods that bring unwanted attention from other neighborhood pets
- Helps to control pet overpopulation by reducing the number of litters of puppies or kittens who will need good homes

### Let's dispel some myths

- Spaying or neutering your pet will not alter the pet's training or its ability to work or hunt
- Dogs and cats have sex strictly to satisfy hormone-induced instincts, spaying or neutering does not "deprive" them. In fact, the procedure may result in your pet showing less anxiety
- Overweight pets are not overweight because they have been spayed or neutered, but because they eat too much or get little exercise
- Roughly one-fourth of all shelter dogs are purebred. Pet owners who are considering not altering their purebred pet should keep this in mind.