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## **Spay & Neuter Fact Sheet**

Spaying and neutering refers to the surgical sterilization of dogs and cats. Males undergo a castration (a complete removal of the testes) whereas females undergo an ovariectomy (removal of the ovaries and the uterus). These are done under sterile conditions with general anesthesia, just as with any other surgical procedure.

We recommend spaying and neutering all pet animals between 4 to 6 months of age for the following reasons:

- It prevents unwanted pet pregnancies.
- It minimizes behavior problems with other animals.
- It minimizes behavior problems with people.

Specific benefits for males:

- A marked reduction in the risk for prostate disease (dogs only).
- Elimination of testicular tumors.
- Virtual elimination of anal tumors.
- Less likely to roam, so it decreases the risk that the animal will be hit by a car or other trauma.
- Less likely to urine mark in the house.
- Less likely to fight with another male.
- No 'tomcat' urine smell (cats only).

Specific benefits for females:

- Elimination of risk for life-threatening uterine infections.
- Elimination of uterine and ovarian cancers.
- Virtual elimination of breast cancer if spayed before the first heat.
- Elimination of heat cycle and undesired behaviors.
- Less likely to escape looking for males.

These health benefits are clearly documented scientific truths. Please feel free to ask us any specific questions regarding the neutering of your pet.