



Spaying/neutering your pet can have medical, behavioral, societal, and ethical benefits. In some areas, spaying/neutering may be required as municipalities attempt to prevent pet overpopulation. The number one cause of death for cats and dogs is homelessness. Contrary to popular belief, activity level and appetite do not change with spaying/neutering.



VETERINARY HOSPITAL
www.centercityvet.com

SPAYING/NEUTERING YOUR PET

Benefits of spaying:

- Helps prevent mammary cancer, pyometra, and certain types of hernias.
- Spaying before the first heat cycle prevents 99.9% of breast cancers. Spaying at 6 months of age will ensure that your pet does not go through a heat cycle.

If you elect to wait to have your pet spayed she will go into heat (about 1-3 times per year) and she will begin to produce vaginal discharge, become swollen and restless, and will need to be kept separate from intact males. There are usually no major behavioral changes in intact female dogs versus spayed female dogs.

Benefits of neutering:

- Helps prevent against certain forms of prostate diseases, cancer of the testicles and anus, and certain types of hernias.
- Reduces interest in roaming, aggression, urine marking, and inappropriate mounting.

Although there are not set ages as to when a pet should be neutered, Most owners elect to have it done between 6 –8 months of age. In some cases, after these behaviors have developed, neutering will not reverse them.