

Spaying and neutering are part of responsible pet ownership. They are surgical procedures that make pets unable to reproduce.

At VCA, we believe spaying or neutering is one of the best decisions you can make for your pet's health, as well as for the well-being of animals in the community.



The key benefits are:

- **Improved health and longer life.**
Research shows that altered pets live longer and are less likely to contract cancer, infections and other health problems.
- **Reduced behavioral problems.**
Spaying and neutering can lessen unwanted behaviors, such as roaming, spraying, inappropriate elimination, or mounting.
- **Fewer unwanted pets.**
You'll also be doing your part to help reduce the numbers of unwanted puppies and kittens that are placed in animal shelters each year.

Q & A

When should I spay or neuter my pet?

Most dogs and cats are able to reproduce by the time they are 6-12 months old, so the procedure should be done before that age.

Is anesthesia risky?

While there is always an inherent risk with anesthesia, it is extremely safe today. Through physical examinations and blood testing, your VCA veterinarian will ensure prior to the procedure that there are no underlying problems. During anesthesia, your pet's heart rate, blood oxygen, and other parameters will be closely monitored. After surgery, your veterinarian and nursing staff will closely observe your pet until he/she is fully awake.

Will the procedure hurt my pet?

Any surgical procedure has pain associated with it. Your VCA doctor has been trained in the most current pain management protocols available in veterinary medicine today, so that your pet's pain is minimized during and after the procedure. We pride ourselves on keeping abreast of new drugs and protocols available, so we can provide the most compassionate care available for your pet.

1-800-VCA-PETS

www.vcapets.com

VCA 1630C



Spaying and Neutering

One of the most important things you can do for your pet



VCA
Animal Hospitals
Expert care. With a passion.



Spaying and Neutering

Because you want to protect your pet

Altering your pets can help them resist disease and even extend their lives.

Removing the reproductive organs of female pets before the first heat cycle (around 6 months of age) reduces the chance of breast cancer by 95%. Since this benefit decreases each time your pet comes into heat, it is best to have your pet spayed early in her life.

Research has shown that altered pets live longer. Spaying also eliminates the possibility of uterine infection, which can be fatal, as well as ovarian or uterine cancer.

In males, removing the testicles helps prevent certain infectious diseases as well as enlargement of the prostate gland, an age-related problem that can make urination painful or difficult. Neutering also eliminates the possibility of testicular cancer.

And because spaying and neutering decreases the influence of reproductive hormones on behavior, your pet will be less likely to roam or be aggressive.

“Spaying” refers to female pets

Also called an ovariectomy, spaying is a surgical procedure in which both ovaries and the uterus are completely removed from your pet.

The procedure is a major surgery and is performed while your pet is under general anesthesia. Upon completion, the incision is closed with sutures, skin-bonding material, or skin staples. The incision will take 10 to 14 days to heal.

“Neutering” refers to male pets

Also called a castration, neutering involves the removal of both the testicles from your pet.

It's a minor surgical procedure that is done while your pet is under general anesthesia.

Upon completion, the incision is closed with sutures or skin-bonding material and will take 10 to 14 days to heal.

For either procedure, be sure to carefully follow your veterinarian's instructions regarding the withholding of food and water the night before your pet's procedure.

VCA Pet Tips:

- 1 Be sure to carefully follow your veterinarian's instructions regarding the withholding of food and water the night before your pet's procedure.
- 2 Once your pet returns home, remember to keep him or her quiet and confined to the house for a few days to allow time to heal.
- 3 Administer medication for post-operative pain as directed.



Because no animal should ever go unwanted

Spaying or neutering ensures that your pet doesn't contribute to the huge animal overpopulation problem. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other animal shelter organizations are overwhelmed with the number of abandoned and unwanted pets.

According to the HSUS, between 3 and 4 million unwanted dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the nation's shelters. That's why spaying or neutering your pet is a very important part of being a responsible pet owner.

Something to think about

Even if you can guarantee homes for all the puppies or kittens your pet delivers, it simply means that there will be fewer potential homes for other unwanted pets.