

The Problem:

More than 70,000 puppies and kittens are born each day in the United States, compared to 10,000 people. That means that even if every man, woman, and child in the country were to adopt an animal, there would still be an enormous surplus of animals.

The estimated number of unwanted animals in the country exceeds 7.5 million. Many of these animals lead lives of misery, privation, disease, and neglect. The others are spared this torture only by being killed in animal shelters throughout the country.

Ironically, the source of all this misery is very often people who supposedly care for animals. Blissfully ignorant of the consequences, owners allow their pets to breed, causing this mass population explosion. By allowing their pet to even have one litter, they are sentencing these animals and their offspring to lives of misery and almost certain death. *And it is all so unnecessary.*

The Solution:



The easiest and most effective way to correct this tragic situation is to make sure these unwanted animals do not exist in the first place. Lathrop Animal Services and many other agencies are committed to this idea. Through the spaying and neutering of our pets, this needless suffering and death can be stopped.

The benefits of spaying females and neutering males are many.



FIRST and foremost, the number of unwanted animals is dramatically reduced. Fewer arrive at animal shelters and many more are spared the cruel life of the streets.



SECOND, pets and pet owners benefit. Spayed and neutered animals are happier, healthier pets. Males fight less and do not roam as much, greatly reducing the risk of being hit by cars. Because females do not go into heat, they don't have to be closed in and are less likely to develop uterine infections and mammary cancer. Owners also save the expense of veterinary bills related to these problems.



THIRD, the shelters and the community benefit. Animal Control and welfare organizations cease to be dumping grounds for unwanted animals and return to their original purpose of providing shelter care to animals in distress. Communities are relieved of the cost of caring for, killing, and disposing of thousands of animals. In addition, our streets and parks will be free from stray and sometimes dangerous animals.



As you see, the solution is simple and the benefits are numerous. The following questions and answers will help you learn the facts about spaying and neutering.



Questions & Answers

Q: *What does it mean to spay and neuter?*

A: Spaying is the operation performed to remove the reproductive organs from the female. Neutering means to remove the reproductive organs from the male. Both procedures are quick and *painless*.

Q: *Will my pet become fat or lazy due to this operation?*

A: Lack of exercise and excessive eating cause weight problems in animals. Some pets may experience a slight increase in weight after the operation because they tend to roam less. If your pet shows signs of putting on a little weight, increase walk or play sessions and reduce daily intake of calories, especially fat, to keep your pet fit.

Q: *Should I expect to see dramatic change in behavior after the surgery?*

A: Yes! You will see positive changes in behavior. Male cats reduce their territorial spraying, depending on the age they are neutered. Neutered male cats also fight less, which results in fewer injuries and veterinary visits. Males roam less, thereby reducing chance of roadway accidents or theft. Females will not go into heat, eliminating such behaviors as constant crying, attempting to run off, and damage caused by staining furniture and personal belongings.

Q: *It seems to me that preventing pets from having litters is unnatural. What do you think?*

A: We interfered with nature when we domesticated dogs and cats thousands of years ago. The overpopulation problem is a result of our interference. Now it is up to us to correct the problem.

CONTINUED ...



Questions & Answers



Q: *Does neutering male cats cause urethral obstructions?*

A: Extensive studies have revealed that urethral obstructions are not caused by neutering a male cat. In fact, it is and unhealthy diet that is directly linked to urethral obstructions.

Q: *It seems silly to have a male neutered when they aren't the ones having litters. Why not just spay the females.*

A: A female cannot have a litter without a male. Unneutered males can impregnate many females in a year. Also, a neutered male will have less physical and behavioral problems throughout his life.

Responsible pet owners should neuter both males and female pets to curb the overpopulation problem.

Q: *I've heard that it's better to allow your female to have one litter before she is spayed. Is that true?*

A: No! There is no research to verify this claim. In fact, the ideal time to spay your female cat or dog is before their first heat. Spaying at a young age prevents uterine

Infections and reduces the incidence of mammary cancer. Also, along with the preventing unwanted crowds of males harassing your female, she will be relieved of the stress of being in heat.

Q: *What are the chances of finding a home for my pet's litter?*

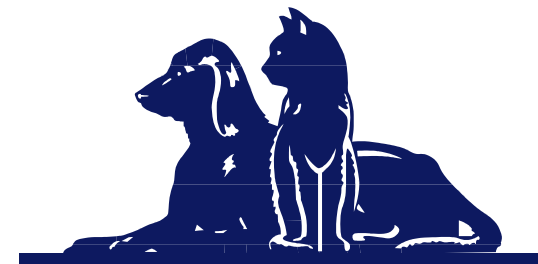
A: Finding good homes for your pet's offspring is and agonizing job. Even when placed, some puppies and kittens are abandoned once they outgrow their cute, cuddly stage or prove to be more responsibility than expected. And, there is no way to control the future breeding of these animals. Shelters are full of animals just waiting for good homes and their time is running out.

Q: *Don't you think that it is important for children to witness the miracle of birth?*

A: In fact, animals want to find secluded, quiet places in which to give birth. If you want your child to witness birth, you should also be prepared to explain the repercussions of an unwanted litter. You will find you are actually allowing your child to witness the tragedy of death. Why not teach your child the humane and responsible alternative of spaying and neutering as a way to prevent the suffering and death?

Q: *I'm afraid that the operation will be too costly. Are there any low-cost spaying and neutering alternatives?*

A: Various low-cost spay/neuter clinics exist in Lathrop/ Manteca for the benefit of the people. In the long run, the price of this operation is far less than the expense of the litters and medical problems from unaltered animals.



Why Spay & Neuter?



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