



**Did you know that every day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born in the United States while only 10,000 people are born?** A large portion of animals that enter shelters are euthanized just based on overpopulation. There simply aren't enough homes for all of these animals which is why spaying and neutering your pets is so important!

Consider this, one litter in can result in HUNDREDS to THOUSANDS of unwanted pets!

	The Prolific Cat	The Prolific Dog
1st Year	3 litters = 12 offspring	4 offspring with two females
2nd Year	144 offspring	12 offspring
3rd Year	1,728 offspring	36 offspring
4th Year	10,736 offspring	324 offspring

The good news is that by spaying and neutering your pets, you can be part of the solution!

### WHAT IS SPAY/NEUTER?

A spay (ovariohysterectomy) is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus of a female to prevent pregnancy. A neuter (castration) is the removal of the testicles of males to prevent them from impregnating females.

### WHY SPAY/NEUTER?

**It's good for your pet!** Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by eliminating or reducing the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult and/or expensive to treat.

- It's better to spay your female pet before she goes into heat for the first time. This reduces the risk of breast cancer and eliminates the risk of ovarian cancer in your dog.
- Neutered males will not develop testicular cancer and their risk of developing prostate cancer is greatly reduced.

### It's good for you!

- Spayed/neutered pets are typically better behaved and more calm and affectionate than those that are not spayed/neutered.
- Male cats are less likely to spray urine and mark their territory, especially if neutered prior to developing this habit.



- Spaying a dog or cat eliminates her heat cycle, thereby eliminating regular bleeding and the incessant crying and nervous behavior that often accompanies the heat cycle.
- Neutering decreases an animal's desire to escape and wander the neighborhood in search of a mate. This decreases the risk of fights, lost or stolen pets and injury or death.
- Spaying keeps unwelcome male animals away.

### **It's good for the community!**

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Spay/neuter decreases the homeless animal population. Shelters are full of homeless animals and there are not enough homes for all of them.
- Spay/neuter decreases the number of strays, which are often involved in dog bites or attacks, automobile accidents, damage to private property and more.
- Stray animals can also scare away and kill wildlife and other domestic animals.

Source: [www.sspca.org](http://www.sspca.org)