



## Spay/Neuter General Information

Spay neuter is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet, your family and your community. These routine medical procedures not only reduce the number of animals who enter shelters, but they may also prevent medical and behavioral problems from developing in a cat or dog, allowing your pet to lead a longer, healthier and happier life.

Spaying or neutering is unlikely to change a pet's temperament, basic personality or levels of playfulness and general activity. However, it can reduce the incidence of some behavioral issues, especially sexual behaviors, such as mounting, howling and the urge to roam. And despite what some believe, pets show no signs of "missing" mating or breeding.

The word "spay" refers to the sterilization of female pets. The term "neuter," while more commonly used to refer to the castration of male pets, can be used to describe the sterilization of either female or male pets through the removal of reproductive organs.

Sterilization directly impacts the number of animals who are killed in our nation's shelters by reducing the number of pets entering shelters and freeing up homes for homeless pets who are already born. By getting your pet fixed, you can play a major part in saving innocent lives.

### Top 10 Reasons to Spay/Neuter:

**1. Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.**

Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.

**2. Neutering provides major health benefits for your male.**

Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.

**3. Your spayed female won't go into heat.**

While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently—sometimes all over the house!

**4. Your male dog won't want to roam away from home.**

An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house. And once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

**5. Your neutered male will be much better behaved.**

Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.

**6. Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat.**

Don't use that old excuse! Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds—not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

**7. It is highly cost-effective.**

The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray!

**8. Spaying and neutering your pet is good for the community.**



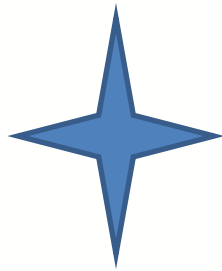
Stray animals pose a real problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and frighten children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of animals on the streets.

**9. Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth.**

Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for your children—especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are tons of books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.

**10. Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation.**

Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.



**Still not sure as to whether you should spay/neuter your pet(s)?  
Take a look at the next (2) pages to see what could happen if you don't opt for  
this life-saving procedure...**



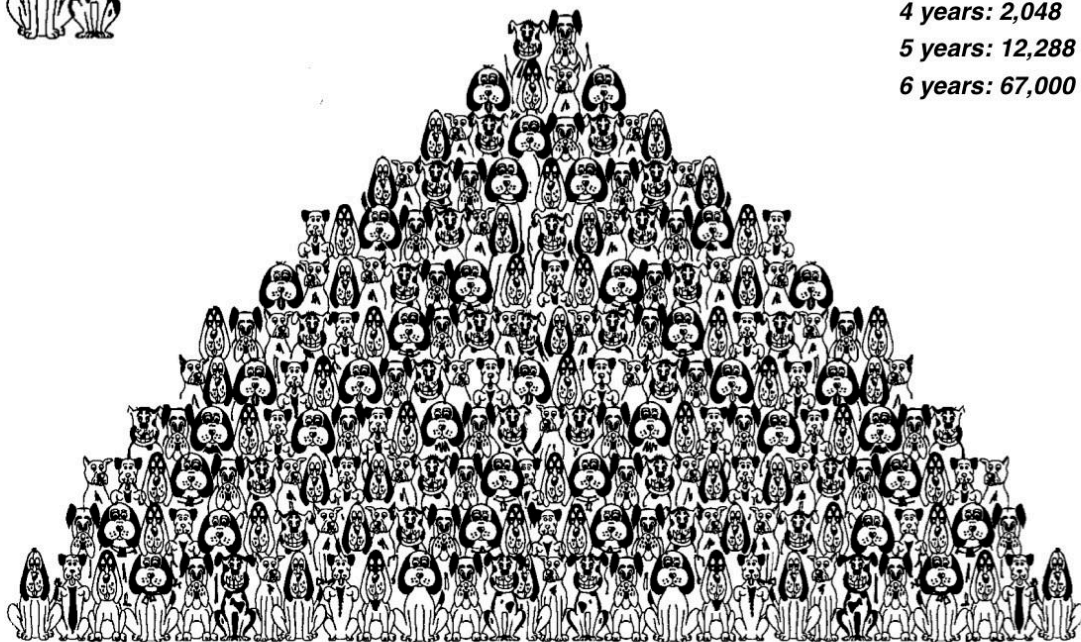
# Did you know?

Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. – and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, millions of healthy, loving cats, dogs, kittens and puppies face early deaths as a form of animal control. Others are left to fend for themselves against automobiles, the elements, animals and cruel humans. What can you do to stop the suffering? **Spay and neuter your pets!** Work with SpayUSA and together we can make a difference.



**An unspayed female dog, her mate and all of their puppies and their puppies' puppies, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to:**

**1 year: 16  
2 years: 128  
3 years: 512  
4 years: 2,048  
5 years: 12,288  
6 years: 67,000**



[www.spayusa.org](http://www.spayusa.org)

SpayUSA is a program of The Pet Savers Foundation  
2261 Broadbridge Avenue • Stratford, CT 06614-3898

**For referrals to participating low-cost  
spay/neuter programs, call toll-free**

**1-800-248-SPAY**

Animal Resource Center

[www.charlestonanimalsociety.org/GetPetHelp](http://www.charlestonanimalsociety.org/GetPetHelp)



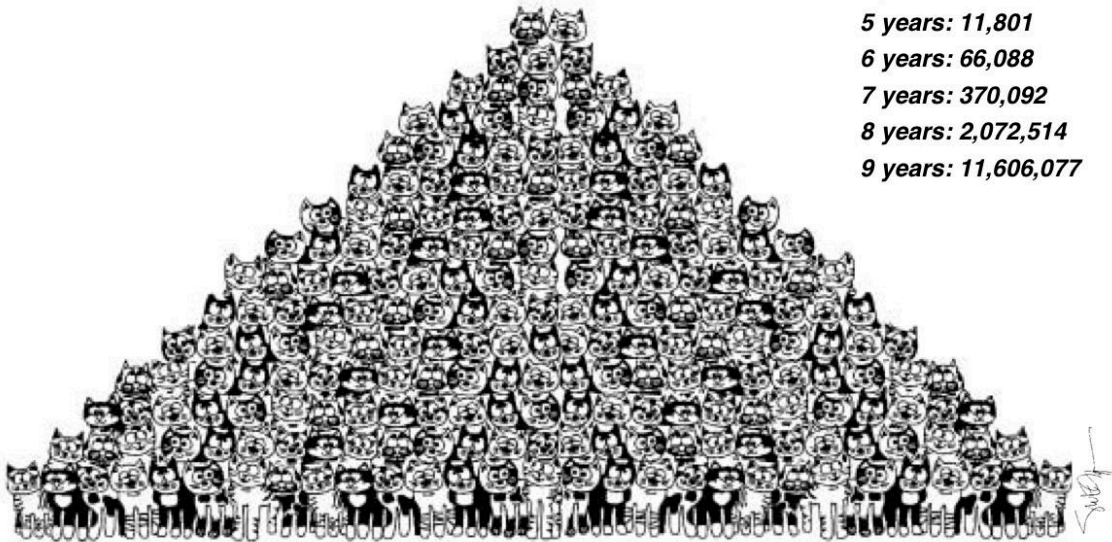
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*An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:*

*1 year: 12  
2 years: 67  
3 years: 376  
4 years: 2,107  
5 years: 11,801  
6 years: 66,088  
7 years: 370,092  
8 years: 2,072,514  
9 years: 11,606,077*



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**First and foremost, we recommend that all pet owners consult with their veterinarian. The information contained herein is meant to be a resource. It is not exhaustive, nor does it indicate an endorsement or recommendation from Charleston Animal Society. Please use your own due diligence in researching these resources and making the best choice for your pet(s).**

**We'd like to give special thanks and credit to the following organizations, whose published resources were utilized, in addition to staff research, for this compilation:**

- Best Friends Animal Society [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org)
- Humane Society of the United States [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)
- ASPCA [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)
- Spay USA [www.spayusa.org](http://www.spayusa.org)

**If you still need assistance after reviewing the information on our website, please either email or call our Animal Resource Center at [help@charlestonanimalsociety.org](mailto:help@charlestonanimalsociety.org) or (843) 329-1554.**