

# Why Spay and Neuter?

## **Pets are homeless everywhere.**

In every community, in every state, there are homeless animals. In the U.S., there are an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals entering animal shelters every year. Barely half of these animals are adopted, and the rest are euthanized. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100 percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

## **It is inexpensive.**

The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter of kittens or puppies.

## **It is good for your pet's health.**

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. Neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer if done before six months of age.

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

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!

## **Your male dog will stay close to home.**

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

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

Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.

## **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, harm pets and frighten children. Spaying and neutering helps to reduce the number of animals on the streets.

## **Spay and Neuter Your Pets. We Can Help.**

Mississippi Spay and Neuter  
The Big Fix Clinic  
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Pearl, MS 39208  
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# **SPAY & NEUTER EXCUSES & MYTHS vs. FACTS**

## **MYTH: It is more natural to leave my pet unaltered.**

Fact: It would also be more natural to live in a cave and not have pets at all. But humans have chosen to domesticate dogs and cats, and with that comes a responsibility to keep them safe, happy and healthy.

## **EXCUSE: I'll find homes for all of the puppies and kittens.**

Fact: Even if your pet is a purebred, and you can find homes for all their babies, those are homes that could have adopted a pet – there are purebreds of almost every single breed in shelters and rescues. And though you might be a lifetime pet owner, you can't control what other people do with their pets. Can you guarantee that all of the puppies and kittens will never end up in a shelter?

## **MYTH: My pet will get fat.**

Fact: Just like with people, metabolism and food intake is what determines if a pet becomes overweight. Fixed pets can be calmer, so do sometimes need to eat less.

## **EXCUSE: My pet will never escape.**

Your pet may not have escaped yet, but male dogs will do almost anything to find a mate. Accidents happen. Don't let the accident be your pet escaping and causing yet one more oops litter.

## **MYTH: It's better to have one litter before spaying a female pet.**

FACT: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Your puppy or kitten can be spayed or neutered as soon as he or she weighs 3 lbs.

## **EXCUSE: But my pet is a purebred.**

FACT: So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breed and purebred. About half of all animals entering shelters are euthanized.

## **MYTH: I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a man.**

FACT: Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

## **EXCUSE: I want my children to experience the miracle of birth.**

FACT: The miracle of birth is quickly overshadowed by the thousands of animals euthanized in animal shelters in communities all across the country. Teach children that all life is precious by spaying and neutering your pets.