



The Factsheet Series

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The Benefits of Spaying and Neutering

There are many benefits to spaying or neutering your pet. Check out the top 3 reasons below.

1. Spaying and neutering help to reduce pet overpopulation problems. The overpopulation problem in Ontario is reaching crisis levels. From communication with shelters in Ontario, the euthanasia rate can be as high as 50%. These are healthy animals that simply cannot be accommodated; there just isn't enough space. Even one litter of baby animals can take homes away from shelter animals.

2. Behavioural Benefits. Animals that are sexually active are likely to have unwanted behaviours. Roaming (searching for a partner to mate with) can lead to animals getting outside and be at risk of poison, being run over and coming into contact with wild animals. Urine marking is exhibited by unaltered male cats and can usually be corrected when a male is neutered. Many unaltered animals display aggressive and destructive tendencies that are reduced or stopped when they are neutered. Female animals in heat will cry out and pace and also have menstrual bleeding. Spaying and neutering pets can also reduce tension in multi-pet households and increase the likelihood that they will get along.

3. Medical Benefits. Spaying and neutering your pet can also have health benefits for your pet. Spaying your female animal before she is sexually mature reduces the chances of mammary cancer and almost eliminates the risk of reproductive cancer. Neutering your male animals reduces the risk of tumours as well. By spaying and neutering you reduce the need for animals to roam and thus also prevent unexpected medical emergencies than can come with living outside (such as poison, being run over, getting lost or being attacked by another animal).

For more information on the benefits of spaying and your pet neutering (and answers to frequently asked questions) please check out the following resources. I also encourage you to consult your veterinarian for more information and costs.

American Humane Association -

<http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/caring-for-your-pet/spaying-neutering.html>

Ontario Veterinary Medical Association -

http://www.ovma.org/pet_owners/pet_health/spay_neuter.html

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