

PROS AND CONS OF SPAYING/NEUTERING YOUR PETS

Following is a general list of pros and cons of spaying or neutering your pet. This document is intended for general information purposes only. Should you consider altering your pet, seek advice from your Veterinarian to help you make an educated decision.

PROS

- Prevents unwanted litters
- Prevents the dog wondering off or escaping the yard to look for a mate, which means less likely chance of getting into a fight or being hit by a vehicle if he is roaming around
- A female in season discharges blood from the vagina which can be very messy and also will carry a strong odor, spaying will prevent this from occurring
- Can eliminate hormone induced depression in females
- Reduces the risk of testicular or prostate cancer in males
- Reduces the risk of ovarian cancer, mammary tumors, pyometra, and attracting unwanted males in your yard if you have a female
- Helps minimize, reduce and sometimes, not always, can reduce or eliminate male aggression
- Can be useful in correcting territorial marking behavior and inappropriate mounting behavior
- Makes the dog more readily accept training of acceptable behavior as he is calmer and not so sex driven
- Is best done at a young age (local Veterinarians claim 6 months) of age as it is usually cheaper as most Veterinarians quote prices based on the dogs weight, which affects the amount of anesthetic used, curbs unwanted behaviors from the start such as mounting, and marking.
- Does not change their personality, just the chances of possibility of aggression in males and depression in females
- The animal does not become lazy and gain weight due to being altered

CONS

- This procedure is permanent, you must make an educated decision as it is irreversible
- Does not always 100% cure male aggression
- It is not recognized as having any effect on aggressive behavior in females and does not prevent the female from having a “Phantom Pregnancy”
- The age of spaying/neutering is very controversial among professionals. Some think it’s best to carry out the procedure before the female comes into season. Some think it’s best to wait until she has had one litter while some think can be done at any age.