Top 10 Reasons to Spay/Neuter Your Pet

One of the most beneficial health decisions you'll make for your new pet is to spay/neuter. Spaying is when the ovaries are removed, and neutering is when the testicles are removed. Here is the top 10 reasons this is beneficial for your pet.

1. Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life
Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer; which is fatal in about 50% of dogs and 90% in cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.

2. Neutering provides major health benefits to your male
Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer.

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 pet won't want to roam away from home
An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! That includes digging under the fence, or jumping over to escape. 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
This is an old myth, that is not true. 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 provide exercise and monitor food intake.

7. 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 if your unneutered male escapes and gets into a fight!

8. Spaying and neutering your pets 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 the miracle of birth.
Letting your pet produce offspring you of no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for our children, especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a 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.