

Pet **Tips**



**Presented
by
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HAVING A PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED IS SOMETHING MOST PET OWNERS KNOW THEY SHOULD DO, BUT DO THEY EVERY CONSIDER WHY?

Population control is an important factor. Thousands of animals were euthanized last year, many simply due to lack of available homes. But what about the medical and behavioral reasons for spaying and neutering?

Intact male cats can begin spraying, marking their territory with urine. This can be damaging to home furnishings and make the marked area smell strongly of urine. Unneutered male dogs and cats can also develop an interest in roaming away from home. Many are injured by cars, other animals, or simply become lost. Males of both species may continue to be at risk of prostate problems and testicular cancer.

Female dogs and cats may become expert escape artists, seeking a male to breed with. Unspayed females are at risk of developing lethal urine infections and more likely to develop mammary (breast) tumors.

Puppies and kittens should have the procedure done by six months, although older pets can certainly benefit from spaying or neutering as well.

P.S. Bring in this column and receive \$50 off a spay or neuter for any new patients. Offer ends 5/30/07.

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