



Why Spay or Neuter?

For the **female**, early spaying (5-6 months of age, before the first heat):

1. Decreases the chance of breast cancer to almost 0%. In cats, 90% of mammary cancers are malignant and in dogs, 50%.
2. Eliminates uterine and ovarian cancer.
3. Eliminates uterine infection (pyometra).
4. Eliminates the heat cycle which, for bitches occurs twice yearly for 3 weeks, during which the female discharges blood and mucous and attracts male dogs; for queens, estrus occurs every 3 weeks from early spring through fall, during which the female yowls and acts uncomfortable.
5. Eliminates unwanted pregnancy. 8-10 million dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the U.S. because there are not enough homes. 70% of all animals in shelters are purebreds.

For the **male**, early castration (5-6 months):

1. Eliminates testicular cancer.
2. Decreases the chance of prostate cancer and infection to almost 0%.
3. Decreases the chance of peri-anal tumors (in older, male dogs) to almost 0%.
4. Decreases inappropriate territorial urine marking.
5. Decreases inter-male aggression. In toms, most abscesses are caused by cat fights.
6. Decreases the male's tendency to stray.
7. Prevents participation in the overpopulation problem.

The only reason to breed your pet is if he/she carries genes for very desirable traits which will improve the breed as a whole. Responsible breeding is not a matter to be taken lightly; it requires an expense of time, effort and money with no guarantee that it will all go as planned.

Both females and males should be tested for inherited flaws (i.e. hip dysplasia) where appropriate. Have your pet evaluated by someone knowledgeable about the breed standards. Pet stores sell pets, not breeding quality stock, and registration papers are no guarantee of quality.

Consider the reasons you got your pet in the first place before you risk her to produce a litter.