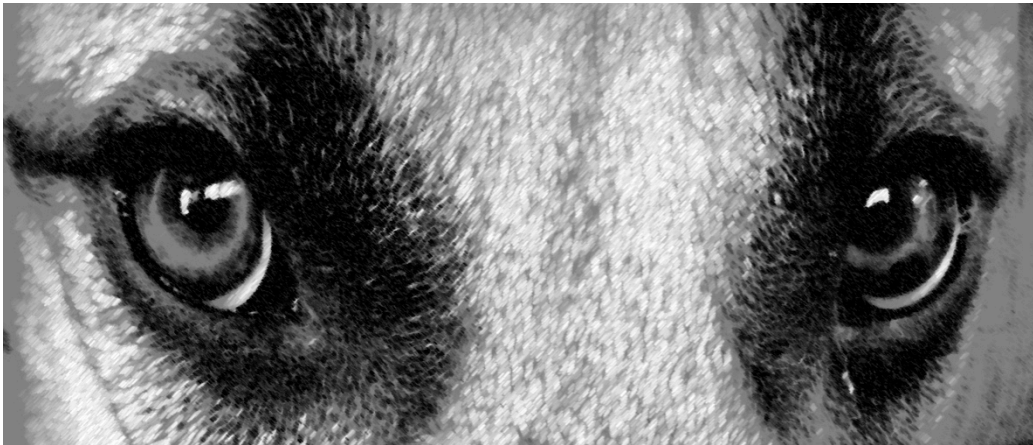


# SPAYING AND NEUTERING



Frequently asked questions.

## Should I spay/neuter my pet?

Unless you are planning on breeding your dog or cat you should always spay or neuter. Keep in mind that that breeding is expensive and that puppies and kittens require constant attention and supervision.

## When should I spay/neuter my pet?

When your pet receives his or her last vaccines, usually at 16 weeks of age, they are old enough to be spayed or neutered. Keep in mind that each clinic has different rules with respect to surgery. Only a qualified veterinarian is authorized to spay or neuter your pet.

## Benefits

Spaying or neutering your pet greatly reduces the risk of many medical problems such as:

- Mammary tumors
- Testicular tumors
- Heat cycles
- Unwanted pregnancy

Documents were developed by Jessica Hammer, as part of her thesis requirement for Barrett, the Honor's College at ASU, with support from mentoring veterinarians.

Read on to learn more about the options for spaying or neutering your pet.

# SPAYING OR NEUTERING

## A Day in the Life of a Surgical Patient

Upon arriving at the clinic, a veterinary technician will take your pet's temperature and listen to its heart and respiratory rate

The majority of clinics use a blood test to evaluate the health of your pet.

If your pet is healthy, than the veterinary technician shaves the area where the veterinarian will make his/her incision to ensure that the surgical site is sterile.

Depending on the procedure, the veterinarian will make an incision near your pet's abdomen. When done with the procedure he/she will suture the incision site closed.

When your pet wakes up from anesthesia, he/she will relax under the supervision of a veterinary technician until you come to pick your pet up.

Normally, your veterinarian will prescribe pain medication or antibiotics for your pet to take at home.

## Recovery after Surgery

**Your pet may be drowsy due to the anesthesia or medicine that is still in their system. Other common symptoms after surgery include:**

Lack of appetite

Lack of defecation for less than 48 hours

Lack of energy

Anxiety

**Call your veterinarian if your pet exhibits any of these symptoms:**

Lack of appetite for more than 24 hours

Lack of defecation for more than 48 hours

Vomiting or diarrhea

Extreme swelling or bleeding from incision site

## Important Points

**If you have financial restrictions consider the following:**

Speak to your veterinarian about all possible options

Find out if your clinic has payment plans

Find out if you clinic accepts medical credit cards

**Speak with your veterinarian if you have any questions concerning the spaying or neutering of your pet.**

## Definitions

**Blood test:** determines the health of your pet

**Neuter:** the surgical sterilization of your male canine or feline

**Spay:** the surgical sterilization of your female canine or feline

**Veterinary technician:** assists the veterinarian with your pet's care before, during, and after surgery