

Dunkirk Animal Clinic



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Some Common Myths and Misunderstandings About Spaying and Neutering

If I neuter my dog, he'll stop protecting our house.

Not so! His instinct to "defend his turf" won't be affected and he'll be less likely to wander off.

Sexual fulfillment is important to me. How can I deny it from my pet?

Don't confuse your emotional needs and relationships with your pet's instinctive hormonal responses. Your pet won't notice a change.

Only females need to be "fixed," since the litters are their owners' responsibilities.

But how do pets get pregnant? A male pet can easily father 750 offspring in his lifetime.

She should have one litter first, to settle her down.

Having a litter won't improve her health or permanently change her personality, although she may be tired and irritable while nursing.

Spaying costs too much.

It's cheaper in the long run than caring for the litters! Financial assistance may be available and license fees are often less for spayed pets.

Still not sure?

If male cats are neutered young enough before they develop the habit of spraying, they may never develop the behavior. Depending upon the age at which they are neutered, if neutered after territorial spraying begins, it tends to reduce their drive to spray.

Neutered male cats and dogs fight less resulting in fewer injuries and contagious diseases.

Since neutered male cats and dogs are less interested in pursuing females in heat, they also wander less decreasing their chances of being hit by a car or getting lost.

The most important reason - it saves lives.

Only about half of the animals sitting in shelters around the USA will ever get a home. The other half will be euthanized. That's approximately 3 million to 4 million companion animals every year (www.ASPCA.org).

