

# Dunkirk Animal Clinic



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## **Common Questions About Spaying & Neutering**

### **Q. What do you mean by neutering?**

A. Achieving permanent birth control by surgically removing the reproductive organs. Neutering is the term used to describe this procedure.

### **Q. How will neutering affect my pet?**

A. For the better! Birth control is just one of the benefits. Here are some others:

1. Stops the mating drive by removing organs that produce sex hormones.
2. Reduces the urge to roam in search of a mate—which in turn, reduces the risk of fights, injury, poisoning, or death in traffic.
3. Ends mounting of furniture, cushions, and people's legs by frustrated dogs—a behavior embarrassing to many, even frightening to some.
4. Stops spraying—a cat's "marking" of territory with foul smelling urine—in most cases.

### **Q. Are there other advantages?**

A. Yes, there are several that may add significantly to the pets length and quality of life. These include:

1. Male Genital Problems: About 60% of older unneutered dogs suffer from enlarged prostate glands. Neutering lowers the risk of this painful disorder, as well as other problems. Both dogs and cats have reduced risk of prostate cancer if neutered and no risk of testicular tumors.
2. Other Health Risks: By neutering your pet you can reduce the risk of injuries and abscesses from fights.

### **Q. When is the best time to neuter your pet?**

A. Neuter before your pet is sexually mature before bad habits are established—approximately 4- 6 months of age. Older pets—neuter at any age, as long as they're in good health and not overweight.

### **Q. What do you mean by spaying?**

A. Achieving permanent birth control by surgically removing the reproductive organs. Spaying is the term used to describe this procedure.

### **Q. How will spaying affect my pet?**

A. For the better! Birth control is just one of the benefits. Here are some others:

1. Eliminates the "heat" or estrus cycle. Dogs are in heat for about 21 days twice a year; cats are less predictable, but can be in heat 3-15 days, 3 or more times a year.
2. Ends crying and nervous pacing of cats in heat; ends the frantic efforts of a dog or cat to get outside to find a mate.
3. Stops the blood discharge of a dog in heat, which can stain rugs, furniture, etc.
4. Stops unwelcome visits by hordes of yapping and yowling "suitors." Male pets can be drawn from blocks around by the scent of a female in heat—even when she's kept indoors.

### **Q. Are there other advantages?**

A. Yes, there are several that may add significantly to the pets length and quality of life. These include:

1. Breast Cancer: Almost half of unspayed dogs develop breast tumors—virtually none do if spayed before their first heat. Cats have fewer breast tumors, but when they do they are nearly always malignant. Spaying almost eliminates this risk.
2. Uterine Diseases: By removing the uterus, spaying eliminates the site of common—and serious— diseases, such as pyometra (a life-threatening infection) and cancer.
3. Other health risks: mastitis (inflammation of the breast), ovarian cysts, miscarriage, complications in delivery

### **Q. When is the best time to spay your pet?**

A. Before the first heat for best protection at approximately 4- 6 months of age. Older pets—spay at any age, as long as they're in good health and not overweight.