

Let's Run The Numbers

Each year, 6 to 12 million animals die in shelters simply for lack of homes.



There just aren't enough homes to go around. In the U.S., there are 7 puppies and kittens born for every human, EVERY DAY. Due to law changes, better education, and greater

pet owner responsibility in our community, Anchorage surpasses the national average in finding homes for shelter animals (*about 60% adopted compared to 10-50% nationwide*)*. Some of the remaining 40% are claimed by their owners, but most are euthanized because there simply isn't enough room for all of the surplus animals from irresponsible pet owners and uncontrolled breeding. Taxpayers bear the resulting costs.

**National Council on Pet Population Study & Policy*

In six years, one female dog and her young can produce 67,000 puppies.

In seven years, one female cat and her young can produce 420,000 cats.

We can stop this.

Contact Friends of Pets'
Spay Neuter Assistance Program
at (907) 562-2535 (press 2)
or visit us online at
www.friendsofpets.org

A Few Facts

- ♥ Animals that are spayed or neutered are less likely to bite. The majority of animals that bite people have not been sterilized.
- ♥ Altered animals can live longer, healthier lives. Reproductive cancers are reduced or eliminated.
- ♥ Neutered cats are less likely to mark their territory by spraying.
- ♥ Animals that are spayed or neutered are less likely to roam or get into fights.
- ♥ Each time a puppy or kitten is given away, a home may be lost for a shelter animal.

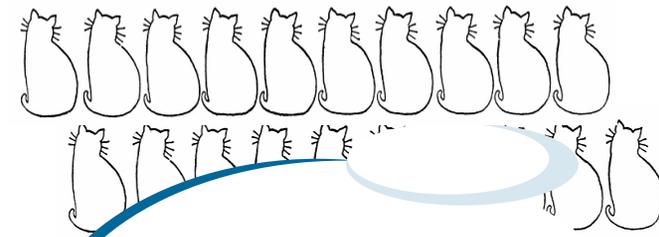


For More Information

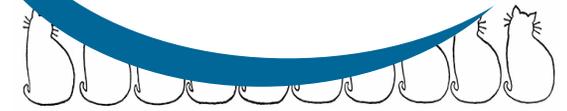


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Anchorage, AK 99507
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www.muni.org/animal

Friends of Pets
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Anchorage, AK 99524
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A Million Reasons to Spay or Neuter



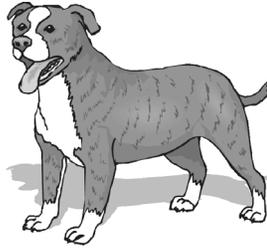
Save a life today...
have your pet spayed
or neutered.



brought to you by
Anchorage Animal Care & Control
and Friends of Pets

There's No Excuse...

1. My pet should have one litter before she is spayed. *There is no basis for this claim. Spaying before the first heat can eliminate a number of infections and cancers, as well as prevent unwanted births.*



2. We always find homes for the kittens. *Meanwhile, millions of adult cats will die simply because no one found them a home.*

3. It costs too much money. *Spaying or neutering is one of the best investments you can make for your pet's health. Many clinics offer reasonable rates, and Friends of Pets can provide financial assistance.*

4. My pet is so special, there should be more like her. *There is NO guarantee that a puppy or kitten will be just like its parents. Animal shelters are full of special pets that may only have a few more days to live. Pick one who is already wonderful!*

5. Neutering or spaying my pet will make it fat and lazy. *Too much food and too little exercise makes any animal fat and lazy.*

6. We don't need to neuter males because they aren't the ones having litters. *It takes two to tango! In one month, a male dog can easily impregnate 15 females, resulting in as many as 90 puppies.*

Recommendations

Generally speaking, the spay or neuter surgery should be done as early as possible. Most veterinarians recommend that a female be spayed before her first estrus or "heat" period (around 6 months of age). Males can be neutered at this age or sooner. Your veterinarian will recommend the best time for your pet.

The American Veterinary Medical Association supports the practice of early spay/neuter (at 8-16 weeks of age) for both male and female dogs and cats, in order to prevent overpopulation and reduce the numbers of homeless, unwanted pets.



The Miracle of Life

Some people wait to sterilize their pets so that their children may witness the "miracle of birth." Leaving aside the fact that most animals need calm and privacy at this time, and that things can and do go wrong which can be very difficult for a child to witness, seeing the moment of birth is only a small part of the picture. Especially if the offspring eventually become unwanted and homeless themselves.

Teaching compassion for homeless creatures and a lifelong commitment to owning a pet are lessons which will benefit children for their whole lives.

About the Procedures:

Dogs and cats are anesthetized for the spay or neuter procedure. After surgery they may experience some discomfort, but this disappears within hours or a few days. As with any surgery, complications are possible, but rare.

Spay/neuter surgery is cheaper than the cost of caring for a litter of puppies or kittens, and generally costs less than many other animal surgeries.

Neutering

This surgery removes the male's testicles. One or two small incisions are made, and the animal is typically sent home the same day.

Spaying

Also called "ovariohysterectomy," the surgery removes the female's ovaries and uterus. The incision is usually sealed with stitches that must be removed, or closed by sutures that dissolve on their own.

Following Anchorage municipal ordinance (Title 17), the Anchorage Animal Care & Control Center requires that all animals adopted from the shelter be sterilized. Some exceptions are made when a delay is medically necessary.

Save a life today...
have your pet spayed
or neutered.