

Think your cat will miss having sex?

It is not necessary or even desirable for a female cat to have a heat cycle before she is spayed. A heat cycle will cause your female cat a lot of physical and emotional upset, may possibly make your cat ill, will drive both of you crazy, and is totally unnecessary from a medical and a behavioral point of view. Females who don't have kittens don't think about having kittens, nor do they miss them. A female cat spayed before her first heat cycle has less than a 1 percent chance of developing breast cancer. A female cat spayed after her first heat cycle has an 8 percent chance of developing breast cancer.

Common Myths About Spay and Neuter

Spaying or neutering your cat does not:

- Make your cat fat or lazy
- Make your cat hyperactive
- Take away your cat's natural instincts, including the hunting instinct
- Make your cat smaller or stunt his or her growth
- Narrow your cat's urethra or cause urinary tract problems
- Cause immature behaviors
- Cause aggressive behaviors
- Cause your cat to eliminate inappropriately
- Postpone or delay normal behavioral maturity
- Alter your cat's basic personality
- Leave your cat feeling sexually deprived or wishing for sex

Important Reasons to Neuter Your Male Cat

- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer
- Greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumors
- Reduces roaming and fighting behaviors
- Reduces the risk of contracting bloodborne diseases such as feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)

- Eliminates urine marking behaviors in males neutered before the onset of these behaviors (usually before six months of age)
- Extends your cat's expected lifespan
- Eliminates the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases
- Eliminates unwanted litters

Important Reasons to Spay Your Female Cat

- Eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer
- Greatly reduces the risk of breast cancer
- Eliminates the risk of pyometra, a life-threatening disease
- Prevents cyclical hormonal changes that can interfere with diabetes or epilepsy medications
- Eliminates unpleasant behavioral changes associated with the heat cycle
- Extends your cat's expected lifespan
- Eliminates the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases
- Eliminates unwanted litters

Spay and Neuter

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Did You Know?

1. Every day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born in this country while only 10,000 people are born.
2. It's simple math - there just aren't enough homes for all of these animals.
3. Every year 10-12 million animals are euthanized in shelters for lack of available homes.
4. On average, 64% of all animals taken into shelters nationwide have to be euthanized for this reason.
5. At least 50% of the overpopulation problem is non-neutered males. Females can't do it alone.
6. Purebreds account for 30% of all the animals in shelters. "Papers" don't mean an animal should be bred.
7. For every home you find for an animal that you have bred, a home is lost for a shelter animal.

8. Breeding to "see the miracle of birth" demands that you also "see the tragic results". Visit a shelter.
9. Animal overpopulation has reached a crisis point in this country.
10. **You personally can make a difference by spaying or neutering your pet. It is the single most important thing you can do to prevent animal cruelty!**