

Talking Points

Spay & Neuter

1. Pet Overpopulation Problem

- a. Why is spaying and neutering such an important issue? In 7 years, 1 female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats; In 6 years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs.
- b. 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. each day; 70,000 puppies and kittens are born in the U.S. each day. There will never be enough homes for them all.
- c. The Result: 8 - 10 million animals enter shelters each year; 4 - 6 million of those animals are euthanised each year

2. What is “Spay” and “Neuter” - “Altering”

- a. Female dogs and cats are spayed by removing their reproductive organs, and male dogs and cats are neutered by removing their testicles. In both cases the operation is performed while the pet is under anesthesia. This prevents unwanted litters of puppies and kittens.

3. When to “Spay” and “Neuter” your pet.

- a. Before their first cycle for females, and can be done as early as 8 weeks.

4. Where to take your pet to be Spayed or Neutered.

- a. Your veterinarian, or you can call your local animal shelter for possible low cost spay and neuter clinics - HUA

5. Advantages of Spaying/Neutering

- a. Some people think spaying or neutering their dog will make them lazy and overweight. This is untrue. Although no medical procedure is completely without risk, spaying and neutering are both extremely safe. In fact, these procedures may even help your dog live longer.

6. Why “Spay” and “Neutering” is good for your pet.

- a. Spay and Neutering improves the long term health of your pet. Spaying a female before their first cycle greatly reduces changes of breast cancer and eliminates and/or lessens the threat of other cancers and infections in your pet. Neutering prevents

- testicular tumors in males, and may prevent the threat of other tumors and hernias.
7. **Why “Spay” and “Neutering” is good for you.**
 - a. Spay and Neutering your pets makes them less likely to bite and makes them more affectionate companions.
 - b. Spay and Neutering reduces your cats desire to roam and fight.
 - c. Neutered cats are less likely to spray and mark their territory
 - d. Neutering pets also eliminates behavior problems such as escape digging.
 - e. Spay and Neutering prevents unwanted litters of puppies and kittens.
 8. **Why “Spay” and “Neutering” is good for your community.**
 - a. “Spay” and “Neutering” helps to alleviate dog and cat overpopulation - many dogs turned into shelters each year are the result of accidental breeding by free-roaming, unaltered pets. The more pets altered, the fewer dogs and cats that will have to be destroyed.
 - b. Each year communities are forced to spend millions of taxpayer dollars to control unwanted animals, including humanely capturing stray animals, sheltering lost and homeless animals, and euthanising unwanted animals.
 - c. There is a public health epidemic of dog bites - 4.5 million dog bites each year - due in part to uncontrolled breeding of pets.
 - d. Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals; stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns and frighten and anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs.
 9. **What can you do to help?**
 - a. **Spay and Neuter your pets!**