



## THE FACTS OF LIFE

### IMPORTANT REASONS TO SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET

#### Spaying your female pet:

- Removal of the ovaries and uterus
- Typical age is 6-9 months for family pets
- If spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has less than a 1% chance of developing breast cancer.
- If spayed after 1 heat cycle, your pet has an 8% chance of developing breast cancer.
- If spayed after 2 heat cycles, the risk increases to 26%.
- Pets with diabetes or epilepsy should be spayed to prevent hormonal changes that may interfere with medication.
- Eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer
- Eliminates unwanted pregnancy

#### Neutering your male pet:

- Removal of the testicles and spermatic cord
- Typical age is 6-9 months for family pets
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common tumor in male dogs.
- Eliminates or reduces spraying or marking
- Greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumors
- Reduces roaming and fighting
- Eliminates or reduces spraying or marking in males neutered before 6 months or before the onset of the behaviors
- Eliminates the spread and risk of sexually transmitted diseases
- Eliminates unwanted paternity suits

#### Common Myths

Spaying or neutering your pet does not:

- Cause laziness or hyperactivity
- Reduces its instinct to protect your family and home.
- Cause immature behaviors
- Postpone or delay normal behavioral maturity
- Alter its personality in any manner
- Reduce hunting instincts

Our staff can answer your questions about spaying or neutering your pet or any other procedure your pet may undergo at our hospital. Please don't hesitate to ask!