



## The Low Down On Spay & Neuter

By Dr. Erika Sweigard

Spaying and neutering are recommended to decrease the unwanted pet population and can have numerous health benefits.

Spaying at a young age can substantially reduce the risk for mammary cancer as well as the possibility of future cancer or infections involving her uterus and ovaries. She will no longer have heat cycles and is unable to become pregnant.

Neutering eliminates the chance of cancer or infection of the testicles and reduces the risk of prostate infection. This procedure also lessens the tendency to roam or display aggressive tendencies. In cats, the chances of spraying and roaming are additionally reduced.

Dogs and cats both tend to live longer when spayed or neutered early in life. Following this procedure, you may notice that your pet's energy requirements decrease some after surgery; this may require you to feed him smaller portions to help him maintain a healthy weight.

Ask your veterinarian about the best time to spay/neuter your pet.