

# The Many Benefits of Spaying or Neutering Your Dog

Spaying or neutering your pet are widely performed, inexpensive procedures that serve various beneficial purposes – both to your pet and animal populations in general.

These procedures are generally performed between six to nine months of age. They help control pet populations and minimize unwanted, potentially orphaned pets, and help prevent or even eliminate many medical problems associated with hormonal imbalances.

## Spaying

Female dogs undergo a common veterinary procedure we refer to as a spay. Medically, it's known as an ovariectomy, and involves the removal of both ovaries and the uterus.

Non-spayed females are first and foremost much more likely to have puppies. They also are much more susceptible to uterine infections and mammary gland tumors. Mammary tumors become large and grow quickly if left untreated.

Having your dog spayed can eliminate the risk of developing either of these conditions, and lessen the risk of ovarian cancer and cysts.

## Neutering

Your veterinarian may perform a procedure called neutering on your male dog. Simply put, this procedure calls for the removal of both testicles.

Neutering your male dog delivers significant benefits to his health and temperament. Instead of roaming, he'll spend more time at home. Unneutered males may initiate fights that lead to injury, but neutered dogs are less likely to exhibit aggressive behavior.

The long-term health benefits of neutering are significant, as male dogs see their chances of developing prostate disease reduced, and their risk of testicular cancer entirely eliminated.

