



Why Sterilize your pet?

Part of our adoption policy is to sterilize all of our pets before adoption. This helps to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies, reducing the number of unwanted animals in the community and, in turn, the number of animals entering into our facility. Sterilization of dogs and cats also has many proven health benefits. Listed below are just a few of them.

Benefits of Neutering Male dogs

- helps to prevent diseases associated with the prostate gland
- helps to prevent certain types of hernias and tumours
- decrease in wandering/roaming to find female mates
- reduction of aggressive behaviour towards other male dogs
- reduction of urine marking
- reduction of inappropriate mounting

Benefits of Spaying Female Dogs

- helps to prevent mammary cancer (especially if prior to the first heat)
- helps to prevent reproductive organ disease and ovarian cancer
- prevention of unplanned pregnancies
- prevention of pseudo-pregnancy behaviours

Benefits of Neutering Male cats

- helps to prevent testicular cancer
- decrease in wandering/roaming to find female mates (less likely to be get lost or be in a traumatic accident e.g. hit by car)
- decrease in fighting with other male cats & reduces risk of cat diseases such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)
- reduction in urine spraying
- reduction in aggression
- increase in affection towards people
- reduction in interspecies aggression

Benefits of Spaying Female cats

- helps to prevent mammary cancer
- helps to prevent ovarian cancer
- helps to prevent unwanted/unplanned pregnancies
- helps to prevent undesirable 'on heat' behaviours such as restlessness and being highly vocal
- increase in affection towards people
- reduction in interspecies aggression

What is early sterilization?

Early sterilization is when a dog or cat is spayed or neutered before the traditional 5-6 months of age. Depending on their individual size and health, the kittens at our facility are generally sterilized between 8-12 weeks of age. Sterilizing our animals at an earlier age reduces the amount of time these young animals spend in our shelter. This decreases their chance of becoming sick while in our care and allows our adopters to take their new family member home at an earlier age, giving them more time to build a bond with their new family member. In addition, research has shown that early sterilization is a faster procedure with less tissue trauma. The anaesthetic recovery and healing time for the wound is also much shorter than traditional sterilization practices.

This information was taken from the RSPCA research report on SPCA research report on early desexing of dogs and cats.