

## Benefits Of Spaying And Neutering Your Dog (Stats & How It Works)

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The topic of spaying and neutering is most often brought up by dog owners; however, it is a subject that should be addressed by all pet owners. There are many benefits of spaying and neutering, including improved health outlook, improved temperament, a declining homeless pet population and a reduction in the expense associated with breeding.



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### What Is Spaying?

Spaying is the practice of sterilizing female animals by removing the reproductive organs, including the ovaries and uterus. Spaying typically occurs between 4 and 6 months, but it can happen for older pets as well as long as they are in good health.

**A female dog that is pregnant or in heat can be spayed.**

Spaying during pregnancy will terminate the pregnancy and can be performed until just a few days before delivery, although this is not recommended.

A spayed female typically takes longer to recover than a neutered male but is **considered sterile** immediately following her surgery.

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### What Is Neutering?

Neutering (also referred to as an orchiectomy or castration) is the practice of sterilizing male animals by removing the testes. The penis is not operated on during this procedure, and the outer sac that

once held the testes is left in place.

Neutering is usually performed between the ages of 8 weeks and 6 months; however, it can be performed on older animals as well as long as an animal is in overall good health.

Male dogs generally recover much more quickly following neutering than females do from spaying since spaying is much more invasive and results in a larger incision.

**A neutered male is not considered sterile immediately following his surgery.** On average, it can take around 2 weeks or as much as 6 weeks for a neutered male to be considered sterile.

**It is important to keep a neutered male away from any females in heat for around 6 weeks to ensure that pregnancy will not result from the encounter.**

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## How Much Does Spaying & Neutering Cost?

The cost of spaying and neutering depends on a wide range of factors including the **overall health of the animal, the size and weight of the animal, geographic location and whether the surgery is spaying or neutering.** A lot of pet owners choose to have their regular veterinarian perform their animal's spaying or neutering surgery.

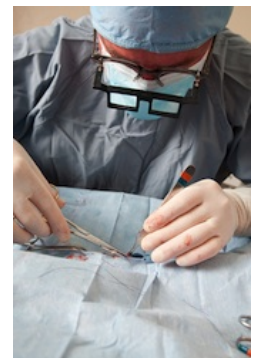
The price range for spaying and neutering from a regular veterinarian ranges so significantly that there is no way to portray it accurately; however, there are many clinics that provide affordable spaying and neutering for between \$40 to \$150 per pet. Spaying and neutering can also be made more affordable by visiting your local animal shelter where the surgery can be performed at a lower cost than it is at most veterinarians or by purchasing a [wellness plan](#), which will cover a portion of the procedure.



## Is It Worth Paying More?

The first priority of pet owners should be providing a safe spaying and neutering experience for their pet. This type of experience is provided by all licensed veterinarians regardless of whether they work at a private clinic, a low-cost clinic or at the ASPCA or Humane Society.

With that said, there are benefits to going with a private veterinarian clinic for your dog's spaying or neutering surgery. Using a private vet will allow you to build a relationship with a vet whom you and your dog will have a lifelong relationship.



There are also smaller considerations to take into account, such as the fact that many lower-cost clinics utilize glue to close spaying incisions rather than stitches. Glue will hold together an incision, but it can result in skin reactions, slower healing and reopening of the incision (although this can happen when using stitches as well.) While the choice between stitches and glue is a personal one for the veterinarian doing the surgery, lower budget clinics opt to use glue over stitches more often.

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## What Are The Benefits?

There are many reasons as to why pet owners should spay and neuter their pets. ^

### Fewer Homeless Pets

Local shelters are often overpopulated. If all pet owners spayed and neutered, their local animal shelters would experience a reduction in their populations.

This reduction would not only result in fewer animals living on the streets and being euthanized, but it would also increase the available space in shelters for animals that may otherwise be thrust into homelessness.



### Decreased Risk For Cancer

Neutered male dogs experience a reduced risk for **testicular cancer**. Spayed females have a reduced risk for **mammary, uterine, ovarian and cervical tumors**.

### Other Beneficial Health Effects

Neutered male dogs also experience a reduction in **non-cancerous prostate disorders, a reduction in perineal fistulas** and it is also believed a reduced risk for **diabetes**.

Female dogs that are spayed also experience a significant reduction in **pyometra (a uterine infection) and perineal fistulas**.

### Less Breed Dilution

Another reason to spay and neuter your pet is due to their love of the breed. Most of us who have owned a pet like to think that our pet is the “best” there is; however, it takes much more than a personal opinion to make a dog that is a benefit to its breed.

Each specific breed of dog has particular standards set out by the American Kennel Club determining what makes a dog the best of its breed. These standards outline height, color, markings, health, clearance of hips, eyes, elbows and heart health.

All of these characteristics come together to make a dog healthy and help lead to an overall better breed. Breeding dogs that don’t have “clearance” from breeding organizations can lead to breed dilution and a much weaker dog with various inbred health conditions.

By spaying and neutering dogs that are not the best of the breed, we can ensure that healthy breeding lines live on and dogs experience fewer genetic health concerns.

### Improvement In Behavior

Behavior can be affected by whether or not you spay or neuter your pet. One of the most obvious differences between a spayed or neutered pet and an unaltered pet is the need to “roam.”

Male pets will go to great lengths to get to a female that is in heat; this includes behavior such as tunneling under fences and leaping over gates. The scent of a female in heat can carry for considerable distances making it extremely difficult to contain a male pet that smells a female in heat. ^

Another consideration is the effect that hormone release has on the behavior of an animal. Males, in particular, can become extremely dominant or bullheaded as a result of surges in testosterone. These pets can be extremely difficult to control and train.

Hormones also play a role in instincts, such as marking behavior and shows of dominance and aggression. The majority of dog bites involve dogs that have not been fixed. Spaying and neutering can reduce these behaviors and make animals easier to manage, which can result in fewer frustrations for the animal.

Note: Some recent studies show that some intact males show less aggressive behavior than “fixed” dogs, especially when neutered at a young age. There have also been rare reports that female dogs who are spayed become more active, aggressive and/or anxious.

## Less Mess

Mating is a messy business. Not only do males release ejaculate, but females experience menstruation.

The heat cycle during which the female bleeds can begin as early as 6 months old. For dogs, this cycle occurs approximately twice a year and lasts for 3 weeks.

In cats, the heat cycle occurs every 3 to 4 weeks from spring until fall. During heat cycles, females need to wear protective garments which must be changed frequently; this prevents the spotting of blood on furniture and around the home.

**Females in heat must be kept away from all males.** This means the female must not be allowed unsupervised access to anywhere she could potentially be mounted by a male. The act of mating can occur in seconds and result in an unwanted pregnancy.

## Cost Of Pregnancy

Many people think that they would like their dog to have babies once in their lifetime; these people rarely understand the cost of both pregnancy and raising young.

The pregnant female requires **supplementation with vitamins** in addition to a **higher quality dog food**. **Regular veterinarian check-ups** are a must to ensure the health of offspring as well as the mother to be. All of these expenses occur before the youngsters are even born.

The birthing process is another potentially expensive experience. Several conditions can arise that require veterinary intervention, which can be costly; it is also possible for the birthing female to experience complications that cost her her life.

Assuming the mother and babies make it out of delivery, there is then the added cost of raising young. The nursing mother requires **premium food**, and her babies require both **regular medical checkups** and

**preventative medication.**

After raising babies to approximately 8 weeks, they must all be found safe and responsible homes. Just because a pet owner believes that their pet is the best “\_\_\_” ever, does not guarantee that everyone else does too, it is possible that all offspring may not find a home.

As a responsible pet owner, it is up to you to raise the young until such a home can be found. Many pet owners shirk this responsibility, and if a home cannot be found for offspring, they are dumped in a local shelter, feeding a vicious cycle.



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## Benefits Of Spaying And Neutering Your Dog Infographic

# BENEFITS

*of spaying & neutering*

# DOGS

SPAYING AND NEUTERING YOUR PET DOG CAN BE THE SINGLE BEST DECISION YOU MAKE FOR HIS OR HER LONG-TERM WELFARE.



A reduction in the homeless pet population.



A reduction in cancer prevalence.



Improvement in overall behavior.



Adds 1 to 3 years to a dog's life.



Reduces spraying, marking & roaming.



Eliminates the cost of unwanted puppies.



Save a shelter animal's life.



An overall healthier & happier life for your dog.

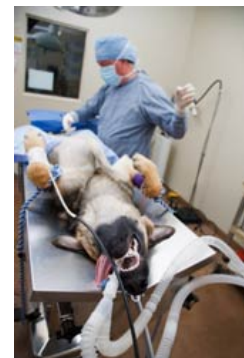
To share this infographic on your site, simply copy and paste the code below:

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<p><br>Source: <a href="https://www.caninejournal.com/benefits-of-spaying-and-neutering/">CanineJournal.com</a></p>
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## Excuses For Not Spaying And Neutering

Pet owners have many excuses for why they don't want to "desex" their animal.

- **I want another dog just like Fido** – We are not duplicates of our parents and the same goes for our dogs. Each living thing is unique.
- **Spaying and neutering will make my pet fat** – Fixing your dog can reduce their level of activity and cause hormonal changes, but poor diet and exercise is the cause of their weight problem.
- **We could become breeders and make money** – Breeding is done for the love of the breed and isn't always a profitable business. There are many fees associated with feeding that cause breeders to lose money.
- **My pet will change after they get spayed or neutered** – Pets typically change for the better. They become less aggressive and are less hardheaded.
- **My pet deserves the chance to be a parent** – We tend to put human emotions and desires on our animals. Being a parent as a human is different from being a parent as an animal. Animals care for their young for a set period and it doesn't consist of enrichment activities as it does for humans.
- **What if the surgery goes wrong** – This is a valid concern, but rarely does anything go wrong. These are routine surgeries, but there are instances where a dog reacts to anesthesia.
- **We always find homes for our puppies** – The people who take in the puppies you have are people who could have saved a dog from a local shelter or rescue group. This means there is one less home and one less second chance for a dog in need.
- **My dog is always contained** – Dogs can escape back yards and other dogs can break into your back yard. Dogs get lost and run away every day.
- **It's not natural to spay or neuter dogs** – It's also not natural to own dogs as possessions, but we domesticated them.
- **I couldn't look my dog in the eye if I cut off his boys** – Could you look him in the eye if he developed testicular cancer that you could've prevented?
- **My dog will feel less like a man** – Dogs do not have a concept of sexual identity, neutering them will not cause an identity crisis for them.
- **It's healthier for female dogs to have a litter before being spayed** – There is no medical research supporting this.
- **Spaying and neutering is too expensive** – Many vet clinics and shelters offer [discount spay and neuter services](#) to help families with financial constraints to provide for their pet.





- **My children should experience the miracle of birth** – There are other ways to educate your children than them witnessing it first-hand. Show them a video, share an article with them, etc.
- **My dog is a purebred** – If you aren't a certified breeder, you have no place breeding your dog.
- **Spaying and neutering will make my dog less protective** – A dog will not lose their natural instinct to protect their family.
- **My dog should experience a heat cycle before being spayed** – It is riskier for a dog to go through a heat cycle than for them to undergo spaying surgery before heat.

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## Statistics

These statistics about euthanasia in animal shelters and spaying/neutering are shocking.

- Every year approximately 3 million shelter animals are euthanized.<sup>1</sup>
- 80% of these euthanized shelter animals were healthy/treatable and could have been adopted.<sup>1</sup>
- Every 6 seconds in the United States alone an animal is euthanized.<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 25% of shelter pets are purebred and have "papers" to prove it.<sup>1</sup>
- Only ten percent of animals that find their way to local shelters have been spayed or neutered.<sup>2</sup>
- 80% of owned dogs (90% if cats) are spayed or neutered. While this is a good start, it is not nearly enough considering the number of pet dogs and cats in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

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## What The Spaying & Neutering Process Is *Really* Like For Your Dog

Humans can never be *truly* sure what a dog feels, but here is a glimpse into the procedure based on vet knowledge and research.

No matter your dog's sex, the first thing that will happen is the dog is placed under **general anesthesia**. This usually involves a quick injection, which vets are trained to perform while keeping the dog calm. All the dog experiences after that is sleep, and no pain, much like a human in surgery.

A tube is fed into the dog's airway, and his/her **breathing is ventilated** throughout the procedure and **heart rate is monitored**. This is where it begins to vary for males and females

### Your Male Dog's Experience Being Neutered

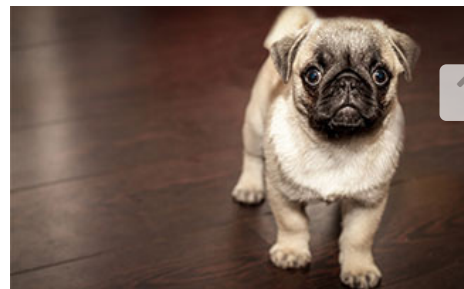
After anesthesia is administered, breathing is ventilated and vitals are monitored, the fur in front of the scrotum is clipped or shaved, and the skin is sterilized using a topical antiseptic wash.

A small incision is made in that location using sterile surgical tools. For puppies with both testicles descended, the next step is the clipping of the vas deferens and the removal of the testicles, which takes 10 to 20 minutes. (An undescended testicle, while rare, will take a bit longer as it presents a minor complication to remove a testicle from the abdomen.) The vas deferens and the blood supply to the area are tied off, and the small incision is closed with surgical glue, staples, or in rare cases, sutures.

### Post-Neuter Care



The dog wakes up without pain or numbness when the anesthesia wears off and is often able to go home that day. He may be sore, and your vet will supply minor pain medication as well as instructions for how to check for infection. Dogs can eat and drink normally when they get home, but require gentle, monitored walking and should refrain from jogging or rough playing with other dogs or people who might accidentally worsen the surgery wound.



If your dog looks like he is going to lick his stitches, a cone will be placed around his neck until the wound heals. Although this might be annoying to him, it is important that he does not aggravate the sensitive spot of the incision until after the stitches are removed or the wound is fully closed up. The wound should be healed after about one week, and the dog can resume his usual antics.

## Your Female Dog's Experience Being Spayed

After anesthesia is administered, breathing is ventilated and vitals are monitored, the skin on the abdomen is shaved or clipped and treated with an antiseptic. A small abdominal incision is made, and the uterus and ovaries are removed, and the blood supply sealed off.

The procedure takes about 15 to 30 minutes, or more if your dog is overweight. The wound is sealed with surgical glue, staples or sutures. The stitches are in 2 to 3 layers so if one layer starts coming undone, the other layers remain intact.

If the surgery is performed during estrus (while the dog is in heat), expect it to take longer, require more supplies and be a little riskier. The medication used before, during and after surgery may vary as well. These adjustments often lead to a more expensive vet bill.

## Post-Spay Care

The surgery is deeper into the abdomen than neutering, but dogs heal just as quickly after being spayed. The dog wakes up, and will not be sore immediately. Vets usually prescribe minor pain medication for the days after the surgery, and once again you are required to check for infection. The dog will not be able to eat normally until the day *after* returning home, to give the wound time to heal enough before pressure is put on it from a full stomach.

Nausea is a common symptom that may make her not want to eat; home remedies may be recommended for this or in some cases, medication will be prescribed. The vet will instruct you on how to feed and water her before then. Since female spays are more likely to have sutures or staples, those require a return visit to the vet's office within 10 to 14 days for removal.

It is often reported that after spaying your dog, her metabolism slows, so for adults, this may require lower calorie food or a special diet. Like with a neuter, the first week after a return home will be especially gentle for your dog, but after a week she can resume all her usually playful activities.

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## Can I Use A Discount Spay And Neuter Clinic?