

# The TRUTH About Spay/Neuter Myths

- 1) Spaying/neutering **WILL NOT** hurt your pet. Spaying/neutering is a safe and relatively painless procedure that is done by a licensed veterinarian.
- 2) Spaying/neutering **WILL NOT** make your pet fat and lazy. Too much food and not enough exercise is the main cause of obesity in pets, just as it is in people.
- 3) Female pets **SHOULD NOT** have one litter of puppies or kittens before being spayed – this defeats the whole purpose! It is actually better for a female to not have a litter or a heat period before being spayed. Most pets can be spayed or neutered anytime after three months of age.
- 4) Having a male pet neutered **WILL NOT** take away their "guard dog" instinct. Neutering a dog does not reduce its ability as either a guard dog or a watch dog. He will still be as protective of his territory/family as he was before the surgery. A neutered dog or cat will focus their attention on their owners, whereas an unaltered male will roam in search of a mate, fight with other males, and mark their territory with strong-smelling urine.

Many people do not have their pets spayed/neutered because they feel they will be able to find homes for their puppies or kittens. Well, that may be true, but each time that they place one of their animals, some where else an animal is being killed in a shelter because there was no home for them. "No homes for littermates" is one of the top ten reasons people relinquish their cats and dogs to shelters.

Please do the right thing by having your pet spayed/neutered - it saves animal lives!

***To find out more about Spay/Neuter Programs in Kansas City, Missouri please call Animal Control 816-513-9800. Thank you!***

Please look at the following information and decide for yourself if there are enough unwanted pets in the United States:

- Two unaltered cats and all their descendents can theoretically number 420,000 in just seven years.
- Two unaltered dogs and all their descendents can theoretically number 67,000 in just six years.
- An estimated **five million animals** are euthanized each year in animal shelters across the United States.

There are several programs in Kansas City which offer low cost surgeries to alter your pet. Please contact Kansas City Animal Control, or any licensed shelter, for more information. Having your pet altered will not only save you money on your Kansas City animal license but will let your pet lead a happier life.