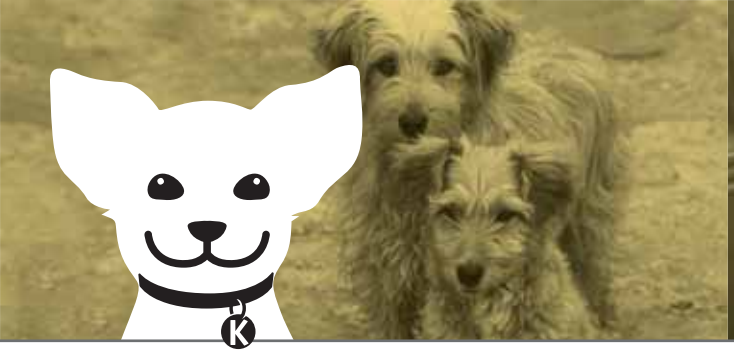

Finding a Good Home for Each Pet in My Dog/Cat's Litter

Many animals in animal shelters are brought in by owners who were unable to place them in homes. Even if you do find a home for each pet, you are taking homes away from equally worthy, homeless pets whose births were not as preventable.

I Want My Children to Experience the Miracle of Birth

For millions of dogs and cats the "Miracle of birth" is too closely matched with the increasing number of pets euthanized due to pet overpopulation. Public television and your library are two highly informative sources available to teach children about reproduction of animals.

I Want to Breed My Purebred Pet to Make Money

Professional breeding of purebred animals is a science involving years of study of desirable breed characteristics. For the novice, little money, if any, can be made when the mother pet is properly cared for and puppies or kittens are fed, wormed, vaccinated, licensed, advertised and sold. Millions of purebred dogs and cats are destroyed each year along with the mixed-breed pets because no one wants them.

Is My Pet too Old for Spaying/Neutering?

Pets are safely spayed and neutered every day. Unless your pet has health problems, spaying/neutering is safe and routine. Your veterinarian or low-cost spay/neuter clinic will examine your pet before the operation to determine if any health problems are present.

RASKC

Regional Animal Services of King County

Pet Adoption Center

206-296-PETS (7387)
Toll Free:
800-325-6165
21615 64th Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032
pets@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/pets

Center Hours

Mon: 3 - 6 p.m.
Tues - Fri: noon - 6 p.m.
Sat - Sun: noon - 5 p.m.

Pet Licensing

206-296-2712
500 Fourth Avenue, Room 403
Seattle, WA 98104-2395

Licensing your pet is easy and an inexpensive insurance policy for your pet's safety and protection. Pet licensing is also required by law. Currently there are over 125 licensing locations. Call or visit www.kingcounty.gov/pets for one near you or simply click on the Quick Link to license online.

www.twitter.com/kcpets

www.facebook.com/KingCountyPets

King County

Regional Animal Services of King County provides animal sheltering and field services to contracting cities within King County, and the unincorporated areas.

RAS 007 (REV 03/13) 1202M

SPAY & NEUTER

RASKC

Regional Animal Services of King County

Answers to Your Questions About Spaying & Neutering

I've Heard of the Pet Overpopulation Problem. What Exactly is the Problem?

Simply speaking, there are more pets being born than there are homes for them. For this reason, over 10 million dogs and cats in the United States are humanely put to death (euthanized) each year in animal shelters because no one wants them. The vast majority of animals being destroyed are young, attractive, healthy, friendly and playful.

Many animals die each year due to abandonment, neglect, abuse, starvation or cruelty because they are unwanted. Because of the pet overpopulation problem, care should be taken to prevent pets from breeding. One solution is to spay/neuter your pet.

At Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC), we operate our shelter with a goal to maximize lifesaving efforts. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers work tirelessly to return lost pets to their owners, and complete a high volume of pet adoptions and transfers to our valued shelter and adoption partners.

What are Spaying and Neutering?

Female pets are spayed. Male pets are neutered. Spaying or neutering removes an animal's ability to reproduce. Spaying involves surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries. Neutering involves surgical removal of the testicles. Both operations, done under general anesthesia are safe, routine and relatively painless. Typically, a spayed or neutered animal is up and about within a day of the operation.

What are the Benefits of Spaying and Neutering?

- Spayed and neutered pets are less distracted by sexual instincts. They can be easier to train and more responsive to family members.
- Spayed and neutered pets are less likely to run away from home, dig under or jump over backyard fences, or roam the streets and become lost or injured in search of a mate. Spayed and neutered dogs can be more reliable guardians of family and property.
- Spayed and neutered pets are less likely to fight with other animals, thus saving themselves much pain and their owners high veterinary bills.
- Spaying or neutering an animal, contrary to popular belief, does not make them fat or lazy. Rather, the metabolism of a pet changes after spaying and neutering and the pet requires less food. This can save on pet food bills.
- Spayed and neutered pets are cheaper to license.

For those with Female Animals:

- Spayed female pets are less likely to develop cancer or pyometra, a common uterine infection in unaltered females.
- Female pets in heat stain carpets and furniture. Additionally, they attract noisy, fighting and bothersome males. Spaying eliminates these problems.
- Pregnant female pets eat more both when pregnant and after offspring are born. Health care for pregnant females is expensive.
- Puppies and kittens are expensive, and it is time-consuming to feed, worm, vaccinate, license, advertise and place them into caring homes.

For those with Male Animals:

- Neutered male dogs and cats are less likely to suffer infections or disorders in the prostate glands or develop lower genito-urinary problems. These conditions can lead to kidney disease, the most common problem in unaltered males over five years old.
- Unaltered male cats typically spray urine to mark territory both inside and outside the home. This spray has an obnoxious, unmistakable odor. Neutering at a young age helps eliminate the problem.

Isn't Spaying/Neutering Expensive?

Costs for spaying and neutering can vary, depending on the weight or size of the animal and the individual veterinarian's fee. We suggest you call several veterinarians and spay/neuter clinics to check on costs for your pet.

Remember, the one-time cost of spaying or neutering is minimal compared to the costs of repeated veterinary treatments for pets injured when roaming or fighting. Additionally, paying for a mother pet's proper health care, including possible cesarean delivery, along with feeding, worming and vaccinating litters of puppies or kittens can result in excessive veterinary bills. The cost of spaying or neutering can typically be offset by lower pet licensing fees.

How Much Time Does it Take to Have a Pet Spayed/Neutered?

Most clinics and veterinary hospitals will accept your pet during morning hours, and the pet is usually available for pickup later that day or the next day.

Will Spaying/Neutering Change My Pet's Personality?

The majority of pet owners notice no change in their pet's personality. If a change is noticed, it is typically a decrease in their pet's desire to roam, fight with other animals, or exhibit anxious, aggressive behavior. Instead, they become easier to train and are more attentive to you.

My Pet Never Leaves My Yard.Why Should I Spay/Neuter My Pet?

A female spayed before her first heat is 200 times less likely to develop breast cancer. Also, accidents do happen frequently to backyard pets, as interested suitors usually find a way out of their yard and into the female's yard.