



Spaying (Ovariohysterectomy) and Neutering (Castration)

St. Michael Veterinary Clinic

- We recommend spaying for dogs and cats and neutering for dogs and cats at **6 months** of age. Larger breed dogs can be performed at a later age, please discuss with your veterinarian. We provide inhalation general anesthesia, respiratory/heart/blood pressure/temperature monitor, temperature control with a bear hugger for warmth, antibiotic injection, and appropriate pain medication during surgery. We also offer pre-anesthetic laboratory testing, intravenous catheterization and precise IV fluid administration using fluid pumps, take home pain medication, Home Again Microchips, Elizabethan collars, and toenail trims.

Benefits for Spaying:

- Eliminates unwanted heat and the inconvenience of attracting stray dogs to your property.
- Eliminates the messy discharge and odor associated with estrus.
- Done prior to the first heat cycle, spaying greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer to 0.5% that is common in older, intact females.
- Helps control the pet population crisis by avoiding unwanted pregnancies.
- Protects your pet against the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and uterine infection (pyometra).

There is no scientific evidence that your pet will in any way benefit from having a heat cycle and/or litter before spaying. Although hormonal changes after the surgery may temporarily increase her appetite, adjusting the type or amount of food given can control weight gain.

Benefits for Neutering:

- Eliminates testicular cancer.
- Reduces the likelihood of enlarged prostate.
- Prevents hormone-related aggression in dogs and urinary spraying in cats.
- Helps prevent roaming and fights in cats and dogs.
- Helps control the pet population crisis by avoiding unwanted pregnancies.

Altering will not change your pet's personality except to make your pet calmer and more devoted. An older less active animal may experience weight gain, which can be controlled by proper diet and exercise. Unless you are convinced that you will want to show or breed your pet, we recommend that you call for a surgical appointment soon. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this important procedure.