

Pet Overpopulation Estimates

Number of cats and dogs entering shelters each year: *6-8 million*

Number of cats and dogs euthanized by shelters each year: *3-4 million*

Number of cats and dogs adopted from shelters each year: *3-4 million*

Percentage of dogs in shelters who are purebred: *25%*

Average number of litters a fertile cat can produce in one year: *3*

Average number of kittens in a feline litter: *4-6*

In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats.

Average number of litters a fertile dog can produce in one year: *2*

Average number of puppies in a canine litter: *6-10*

In six years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs.

Total number of animals euthanized each year in the Chicago area: *over 50,000*

As taxpayers, we spend over \$1.5 MILLION in the Chicago area EACH YEAR just to kill unwanted animals.

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Cats can't add, but they sure can multiply!

You do the math...

TWO UNCONTROLLED, BREEDING CATS, plus all of their kittens and all their kitten's kittens, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to:

first year: 12
second year: 66
third year: 383
fourth year: 2,201
fifth year: 12,680
sixth year: 73,041
seventh year: 420,715
eighth year: 2,423,316
ninth year: 13,958,290
tenth year: 80,399,780

- * 2 litters per year
- * 2.8 surviving kittens per litter
- * 10 year breeding life



Spay + Neuter = Love

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Spaying and Neutering: *Myths and Facts*



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Myths and Facts about Spaying and Neutering



Myth: My pet will get fat and lazy.

Fact: The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't give them enough exercise.

Myth: "It's better to have one litter first."

Fact: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age. Check with your veterinarian about the appropriate time for these procedures.

Myth: "I want my dog to be protective."

Fact: Spaying or neutering does not affect a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

Myth: "But my pet is a purebred."

Fact: So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breed and purebred.

Myth: "I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male."

Fact: Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

Myth: "It's too expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered."

Fact: The cost of spaying or neutering depends on the sex, size and age of the pet, your veterinarian's fees, and a number of other variables. But whatever the actual price, spay or neuter surgery is a one-time cost—a relatively small cost when compared to all the benefits. It's a bargain compared to the cost of having a litter and ensuring the health of the mother and litter; two months of pregnancy and another two months until the litter is weaned can add up to significant veterinary bills and food costs if complications develop. Most importantly, it's a very small price to pay for the health of your pet and the



prevention of the births of more unwanted pets.

Myth: "I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens."

Fact: You may find homes for all of your pet's litter. But each home you find means one less home for the dogs and cats in shelters who need good homes. Also, in less than one year's time, each of your pet's offspring may have his or her own litter, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time.

