

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter Spay Day Fact Sheet

### What is sterilization?

- Spay/neuter are surgical operations performed on animals that stop them from being able to reproduce. Females are spayed, males are neutered.
- The clinical name for "spay" is ovariectomy. When a female is spayed, her ovaries and uterus are removed. The clinical name for "neuter" is orchidectomy. When a male is neutered, his testicles are removed.
- Spaying and neutering are the most common – and among the safest – of operations performed on animals. For more information about spay/neuter, please consult your veterinarian.

### Why you should sterilize your pets:

#### Spaying or Neutering Is Good for Your Pet

- Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- Spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat.
- Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrous cycle.
- Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

#### Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- Neutering cats makes them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Spaying a dog or cat eliminates her heat cycle. Estrus lasts an average of six to 12 days, often twice a year, in dogs and an average of six to seven days, three or more times a year, in cats. Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals.
- Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered.
- Spaying and neutering can make pets less likely to bite.
- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into dangerous situations

## **Spaying and Neutering Are Good for the Community**

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs.
- Some stray animals also scare away or kill birds and wildlife.

## **BENEFITS OF SPAY/NEUTER FOR CATS AND DOGS**

### **Benefits of Spaying (females):**

- No heat cycles, therefore males will not be attracted
- Less desire to roam
- Risk of mammary gland tumors, ovarian and/or uterine cancer is reduced or eliminated, especially if done before the first heat cycle
- Reduces number of unwanted cats/kittens/dogs/puppies
- Helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives

### **Benefits of Neutering (males):**

- Reduces or eliminates risk of spraying and marking
- Less desire to roam, therefore less likely to be injured in fights or auto accidents
- Risk of testicular cancer is eliminated, and decreases incidence of prostate disease
- Reduces number of unwanted cats/kittens/dogs/puppies
- Decreases aggressive behavior, including dog bites
- Helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives

### **Additional Benefits:**

Your community will also benefit. Unwanted animals are becoming a very real concern in many places. Stray animals can easily become a public nuisance, soiling parks and streets, ruining shrubbery, frightening children and elderly people, creating noise and other disturbances, causing automobile accidents, and sometimes even killing livestock or other pets.

- *The American Veterinary Medical Association*

The capture, impoundment and eventual destruction of unwanted animals costs taxpayers and private humanitarian agencies over a billion dollars each year. As a potential source of rabies and other less serious diseases, they can be a public health hazard.

- *The American Veterinary Medical Association*

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The mission of the **Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter** is to provide loving care and sanctuary to animals, encourage adoptions and reunions, and promote respect,

responsibility and compassion for all animals.

Animals are the heart of our mission.