

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Liberty Veterinary Hospital strives to create a state-of-the-art pet care facility that meets all of our clients' & pets' needs from nutritional supplies, boarding and grooming to the highest level of medical and surgical care. Because our team can only be as good as the sum of its parts, we nurture and educate our staff so that we may all provide uncompromising service, compassion, kindness and caring for each patient as a member of our own family.

Spay and Neuter Awareness

What is a spay? The surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus (OVH or Ovariohysterectomy) of female companion animals.

What is a neuter? The surgical removal of the testicles of male companion animals.



Spays and neuters can be done on pets of any age, but best done before your pet reaches sexual maturity at 5 to 6 months. Females can be spayed when not in heat. Both surgeries are safe when done by one of our qualified veterinarians. The medical advantages have been proven, and serious complications to the procedures are uncommon. In general, pets recover from surgery very quickly. Usually the day after surgery, most pets are bouncing around as if nothing ever happened.

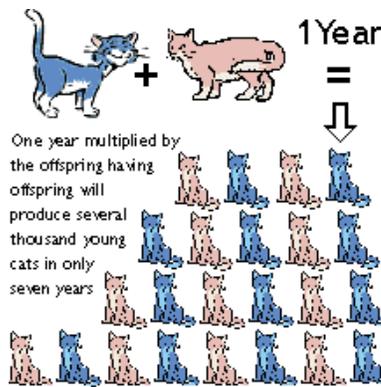
Please don't hesitate to ask our staff for any further information—including the benefits of **MICROCHIPPING** and **LASER** surgery!

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your puppy's or kitten's health and well being is to have him or her neutered or spayed. The health and behavior benefits will help make your pet a better, happier companion.

Amy Johnstone, DVM ~ Robyn Collins, DVM

Did you know.....

- On average, for each pet adopted to a new home, **9 animals are euthanized** because there are not enough homes for them.
- Each day in the U.S., 70,000 puppies and kittens are born while only 10,000 humans are born. That's a **7 to 1 ratio**.
- Each year in the U.S., almost **15,000,000 dogs and cats are destroyed** because there are not enough loving homes for all of them.



Health and Behavior Benefits

Health

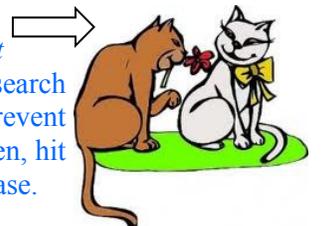
Female: Reduces risk of breast tumors, pyometra (infection of uterus) and uterine cancer.
Male: Reduces risk of prostate problem and testicular cancer later in life.

Population

Female and male: Crucial to decreasing the overpopulation of unwanted dogs and cats.

Safety

Female: Eliminates unwelcome visits by potential male suitors.
Male: Eliminates *most* roaming associated with search for mate, which can prevent pet from getting lost, stolen, hit by car or contracting disease.



Community 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 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.

~AVMA

Staining/Soiling

Female: Eliminates stains from heat cycles on rugs and furniture.
Male: Reduces urge to "mark" territory and soiling on furniture and other inappropriate places.

Behavior

Female and Male: Curbing of aggression



OUR HOURS:

- Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 7:30am - 7pm
- Wed 7:30am - 6pm
- Sat 8:00am - 2pm
- Sun Closed

Did You Know ...
We offer dog obedience classes
We offer full grooming, boarding and surgical services
We offer massage and rehabilitation therapy recommendations
We offer **free** educational seminars
We really look forward to visiting with you and your pet!

Some common Spay and Neuter questions

Is the spay or neuter operation painful?

Spay or neuter surgery is performed under general anesthesia and, therefore, your pet does not feel pain during the procedure. Animals may experience some discomfort after surgery.

However, the discomfort does not typically last long and is controllable with medication. At Liberty, we are pleased to offer laser surgery to our patients. Laser surgery provides many benefits to your pet. When your pet undergoes laser surgery, he or she will feel less pain, face less bleeding or swelling, and will enjoy a faster recovery time and a reduced hospital stay.

At what age should my pet be spayed or neutered?

Spays and neuters can be done on pets of any age, but best done before your pet reaches sexual maturity at 5-6 months. Females can be spayed when not in heat.

Should the female have a heat period or litter before being spayed?

There are no benefits to allowing a companion animal to have a litter or go through a heat period. In fact, female cats and dogs that have never experienced a heat have a decreased chance of getting mammary cancer and do not have reproductive tract disease problems.

Will spaying or neutering make my pet fat?

Removing the ovaries or testicles does affect metabolism. For this reason, spayed or neutered pets will tend to put on weight more easily if permitted to overeat. The important phrase here is "if permitted to over-eat." Monitoring the quantity of food given and providing regular play and exercise will help keep your pet in shape.

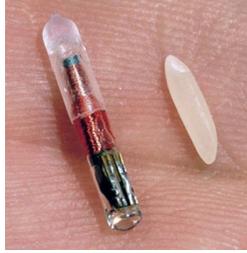
If my pet is a purebred, should I breed it at least once?

Breeding is a complicated business. There is no medical reason that a pet needs to breed at least once. But if you want to breed, you need to ask yourself: "Does the animal fit the breed standard?" "Does the animal have a stable temperament?" "Are the animal and the prospective mate healthy and free of any discernable genetic diseases?" "Do I have the time and financial resources it takes to breed and care for the offspring?" A good breeder is careful about the animals they breed, takes the process very seriously, and ensures that all offspring are placed into good, responsible homes.

Newsletter Sources:

AVMA
Americanhumane.org
HSUS
Spayusa.org
Homeagain.com

When you schedule your spay or neuter with us, be sure and have your pet microchipped. Microchipping is a simple procedure that can help identify your pet if lost for his or her life! While inserting the microchip is simple and causes minimal discomfort, why not have it done while your pet is already under anesthesia?



**actual microchip next to a grain of rice

Microchipping facts and fiction

Fiction:

Having a microchip implanted will hurt my pet.

Fact:

No anesthetic is required for a microchip implant. The procedure is performed at your veterinarian's office and is simple and similar to administering a vaccine or a routine shot.

Fiction:

Pet microchips work like global positioning devices (GPS) and tell me my pet's location.

Fact:

Pet microchips are not tracking devices. They are radio-frequency identification (RFID) implants that provide permanent ID for your pet.

Fiction:

My pet wears a collar with tags, so he doesn't need a microchip.

Fact:

All pets should wear collar tags imprinted with their name and the phone number of their owner, but only a microchip provides permanent ID that cannot fall off, be removed, or become impossible to read.

Fiction:

Microchips are expensive.

Fact:

The average cost to have a microchip implanted by a veterinarian is around \$45, which is a one-time fee and often includes registration in a pet recovery database.

Fiction:

Only dogs, not cats, need to be microchipped.

Fact:

Both cats and dogs need to be microchipped.

Cats often do not wear collars, and may not have any other form of ID. A recent study showed that less than 2% of cats without microchips were returned home. However, if a cat is microchipped, the return-to-owner rate is 20 times higher than if the cat was not microchipped.

Fiction:

My contact information is contained in the chip, and anyone with a scanner can access it.

Fact:

Microchips carry only a unique identification number.

If your pet gets lost and is taken to a vet clinic or animal shelter, your pet will be scanned for a microchip to reveal his unique ID number. That number will be called into the pet recovery service, and you will be contacted using the contact information on file with your pet's microchip.

**It is vital to keep your contact information up to date so that you can be reached.

Fiction:

I need to microchip my pet more than once.

Fact:

A microchip will normally last the lifetime of your pet because it is composed of biocompatible materials that will not degenerate over time.