



Some Popular Myths about Spay & Neuter (and the Facts)

1. **Myth: Spaying or Neutering will make my pet unfriendly.**
 - **Fact:** If your pet was loving and caring before surgery, surgery will not change this. Neutered male dogs and cats will stop “prowling” for a mate and will lose the urgency to “mark” their territory.
2. **Myth: My pet will become fat and lazy after surgery.**
 - **Fact:** Pets get fat and lazy if their owners overfeed them! If you have an exercise routine with your dog or cat now, keep it up after he recovers from surgery, and his weight and energy level will remain the same. If not, start one! It will help both of you stay healthy.
3. **Myth: My pet will get sick more often and be unhealthy.**
 - **Fact:** Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives. Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer. Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.
4. **Myth: It is better to have a litter first.**
 - **Fact:** The opposite is true. Evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat typically live healthier lives.
5. **Myth: A spayed or neutered dog won't protect our home and family.**
 - **Fact:** These procedures do not affect an animal's natural protection instinct.
6. **Myth: My children will benefit from experiencing the miracle of birth.**
 - **Fact:** There are plenty of births they can experience – both human and animal – from many media sources. The real lesson they will learn from this experience is that animals can be created and discarded to satisfy human whims. Consider letting them experience the miracle of *saving* a life by adopting a pet from their local shelter or Humane Society.
7. **Myth: Spaying and Neutering costs more than I can afford.**
 - **Fact:** Dallas has several low cost spay/neuter facilities. *There are even free spay/neuter programs available!* Email the Richardson Humane Society for more information about our assistance and sponsorship programs:
Spay_Neuter@richardsonhumanesociety.org

Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are put to sleep or suffer as strays. Many of these pets are the result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering. Please, don't add to the statistics this year!