

# Rancho Cordova Whisker Warriors

c/o Whisker Warriors Animal Defense Fund



## REASONS TO SPAY or NEUTER

Consider these important facts before you say “no” to Spay or Neuter...

1. **Reduces Behavior Problems.** In dogs, reduces behaviors such as aggression, territorial marking, excessive barking, and also digging and breaking through fences to escape the yard to roam for a mate. Statistics show that unaltered dogs, regardless of breed, are twice as likely to bite or have other aggression issues with both people and other animals. In cats, territorial spraying (by both males and females) is reduced, if not eliminated.
2. **Reduces or eliminates the chances of cancers,** such as testicular and prostate cancer in in males, and mammary, uterine and ovarian cancers in females. Also eliminates many serious and potentially fatal reproductive system infections such as Pyometra in females.
3. **Eliminates messy “heats” in females.** Who wants to deal with that?!
4. **You and your pet will be happier!** A spayed/neutered pet is easier to live with than one battling hormones, and thus is more likely to be a beloved, lifelong member of the family. Your pet will reward you with a lifetime of companionship!
5. **Reduces pet over-population!** Millions of unwanted animals are euthanized each year throughout the United States. YOUR decision to spay/neuter will either contribute to the solution, or further the problem. **It’s an easy choice, and it’s yours. Please help save lives!**

## *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. Just like people, lack of exercise, poor nutrition, over-eating, and the natural result of aging are the reasons why animals gain weight.

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 and shelters now safely sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks old.

MYTH: *My children should experience the miracle of birth.*

FACT: Even if children are able to see a pet give birth – which is unlikely, since it usually occurs at night and in seclusion – the lesson they will really learn is that animals can be created and discarded as it suits adults and that spaying and neutering are not important. Instead, it should be explained to children that preventing the birth of some pets can save the lives of millions of others.

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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. Shelters are flooded with animals, even purebreds, and even those who are AKC-registered. There are just too many dogs and cats – mixed breed and purebred – and just not enough adopters.

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. A healthy, well-loved dog who feels part of the family is more likely to be protective of her/her people.

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. This argument for not neutering is usually more about the owner's own personal need to feel adequate, not what is in the best interest of the animal.

MYTH: *But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.*

FAACT: A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean her offspring will be a carbon copy. Professional animal breeders who follow generations of bloodlines can't guarantee they will get just what they want out of a particular litter. A pet owner's chances are even slimmer. In fact, an entire litter of puppies or kittens might receive all of a pet's (and her mate's) worst characteristics, even from many generations before.

MYTH: *It's too expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered.*

FACT: No excuse. There are many low-cost and free resources available in most communities. 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 of care until the litter is weaned, including necessary vaccinations, 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 lifelong health of your pet and the prevention of the births of more unwanted pets.

MYTH: *I want my pet to have just one litter, and I'll find good homes for all the puppies (or kittens).*

FACT: Yes, you may find homes for all of your pet's litter, but each home you find means one less 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 one or more litters, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time. Remember, every animal, in every shelter came from "just one litter" somewhere.