

The best **FREE** thing you can do for your dog!



The Richmond Neuter Project



Photo courtesy of Josh Lewis

ATTENTION CHURCH HILL RESIDENTS:

- Free spay/neuter for all pit bulls and pit bull mixes
- Free transportation provided
- Free rabies vaccination, city dog license, and a collar and leash
- Appointments available: Oct. 28, 29 & 30

For more information: (804) 646-0300 • richmondneuter@aol.com • www.richmondneuter.org

Top 10 Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pet

Adapted from www.asPCA.org

1. *Your female dog or cat will live a longer, healthier life.*

Spaying-the removal of the ovaries and uterus-is a veterinary procedure performed under general anesthesia that requires minimal hospitalization. Spaying a female cat or dog helps prevent life-threatening and common uterine infections and breast cancer. Treatment of uterine infections requires hospitalization, intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Breast cancer can be fatal in about 50 percent of female dogs and in 90 percent of female cats. Spaying your pet offers the best protection from these diseases.

2. *There are major health benefits for your male animal companion, too.*

Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male dog or cat-the surgical removal of the testicles-prevents testicular cancer and aids in preventing prostate disorders, if done before six months of age.

3. *Your spayed female won't go into heat.*

Unspayed female dogs generally have a bloody discharge for about a week, and can conceive for another week or so. During that time they can also suffer from hormonal behavioral changes.

4. *Your male dog won't need to roam away from home...*

An intact male in search of a mate will do just about anything to get one! That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house. And once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

5. *...and he will be much better behaved too!*

Neutered animals focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs may mark their territory with strong smelling urine all over the house. Indoors, male dogs may embarrass you by mounting on furniture and human legs when stimulated. A neutered dog protects his home and family just as well as an unneutered dog - and many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering. The most likely dog to bite is an intact male dog.

6. *Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat.*

Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to gain weight-not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

7. *Spaying or neutering is highly cost-effective. And now it can be free!*

The cost of your pet's spay or neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered dog escapes and gets into fights with neighborhood strays...or the cost of cleaning the carpet that your unspayed female has soiled during her cycle.

8. *It's good for the community.*

Stray animals pose real problems in many parts of the country. They pose a threat to children and other animals.

9. *Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to witness the miracle of birth.*

We've heard this one a lot. But you know what? Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping teaches your children irresponsibility. Anyone who has seen an animal euthanized in a shelter for lack of a home knows the truth behind this dangerous myth. There are countless books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a responsible manner.

10. *It packs a powerful punch in the fight against pet overpopulation.*

Millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized annually or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.

The Richmond Neuter Project is sponsored by the following:

Richmond SPCA - www.richmondspca.org

Richmond Animal Care and Control - www.ras.petfinder.com

Premier Pet Products - www.premier.com

Annabelle's Second Chance - www.ascpbr.com

Ring Dog Rescue - www.ringdogrescue.org

Misunderstood Pit Bull Rescue - misunderstood.rescuegroups.org

Best Friends Animal Society - www.bestfriends.org

B.A.R.K. - www.barkva.org

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