

## Why Neuter or Spay

Neutering or spaying is very beneficial to the health your cat and is essential for you pet to become a good family member.

### Health concerns:

Neutering male cats eliminates the risk of testicular cancer and lessens the possibility of prostate cancer.

Spaying females eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancers and lessens the chance of mammary gland cancer.

**\*\*\*** The most obvious benefit of neutering or spaying is the prevention of unplanned litters of kittens.

### Behavior Modification:

Mature [8 to 9 months], intact male cats will use urine to mark their territory. This is a natural instinct to warn other possible suitors that any females within his territory are off limits.

Once a female cat reaches puberty, usually at around seven months of age, she will have a heat or estrus cycle every two to three weeks for most of the year, unless she becomes pregnant. She will be “in heat” or receptive to mating for approximately one week in each cycle. During “heat” she may display unsociable behavior such as loud and persistent crying and frequent rubbing and rolling on the floor. This behavior coupled with her scent, will attract male cats from miles around. Removal of the ovaries will stop her estrus cycles.

It is the recommendation of our hospital that you neuter or spay your pet before the onset of puberty. Puberty normally begins between six and 8 months of age.