

FRIENDS INVOLVED IN DOG OUTREACH (FIDO)

Why do we insist on helping spayed and neutered pets first?

FIDO recommends that any pet owner spay or neuter their pets, but we're often asked "Why?" As an animal welfare organization, shouldn't we advocate for the health and safety? Yes, we do; spaying and neutering pets has proven health benefits for them and enhances their safety.

FIDO's mission is: "Providing pet food to ensure that the bond between people and their pet companions is unbroken." Our sole purpose is to help people maintain the resources necessary to support their families – including family pets. When families struggle financially, the support we provide those families allows pets to remain in their homes, rather than being neglected or abandoned.

But our resources are limited. We are proud and gratified to serve many families each month, but we also know that many, many more people need our help. FIDO strives to provide food and other items to pets as wisely and efficiently as possible. We will do our part to reduce the number of unwanted puppies and kittens born into the world. So, we will absolutely prioritize supporting spayed and neutered pets first and help reduce the number of pets we may have to feed in the future.

We absolutely support responsible pet owners, and we strive for a world where every pet born into the world has a warm, safe home and fulfilling life. When that day arrives, we may alter this policy. But until then, we will remain thoughtful stewards of the resources we have.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this policy.

The benefits of spaying or neutering your pet

Animal welfare organizations unanimously support spaying and neutering your pets for many reasons.

- **Improved health.** Pets will live a longer, healthier lives. Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast tumors in female pets; neutering helps prevent male testicular cancer and prostate problems.
- **Better behaved.** Spayed female pets don't go into heat and won't engage in the associated behaviors (such as loud yowling or urinating out in the open to attract a mate). Spayed male pets are less likely to roam away from home. Unneutered dogs and cats mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house and engage in more aggressive behavior
- **Longer lives.** The average lifespan of spayed and neutered cats and dogs is demonstrably longer than the lifespan of those not.
- **Cost considerations.** The cost of spay/neuter surgery is far less than the cost of having and caring for a litter of newborns and spayed/neutered pets have lower health risks (and lower veterinary bills).
- **Owner benefits.** Most dog parks prohibit dogs that are not spayed or neutered. Additionally, many landlords require proof of spaying/neutering before allowing tenants to keep pets.

For more information, please check out the websites for these organizations:

- ASPCA
- Oregon Humane Society
- Humane Society of the United States
- American Veterinary Medicine Association