

# affordable spay/neuter solutions in sonoma county

The animal shelters in Sonoma County can provide a variety of information about spay and neuter programs offered by local veterinary hospitals or the shelters themselves.

## SONOMA COUNTY SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Established by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, this program provides financial assistance of spay and neuter procedures for animals owned by underserved individuals. It also provides financial assistance for the spaying and neutering of feral cats and other animal population control programs.

Assistance programs are available at private veterinary hospitals or at spay/neuter clinics offered by selected shelters in the County. **People seeking assistance on the basis of their income level need to provide one of the following: A copy of your income taxes or proof of Social Security, SSI or Government Assistance.** People participating in feral cat capture, alter and release programs do not need to provide evidence of income levels.

Vaccinations or lab testing are not provided as part of the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program, but we strongly recommend that your pet be tested and vaccinated.

Individual shelters may offer other funding programs to assist pet owners in spaying or neutering their pets. Please contact your local shelter for more information.

**SPAY/NEUTER HOTLINE: (707) 579-SPAY**

**ANIMAL SHELTERS IN SONOMA COUNTY**  
Spay/Neuter Assistance Programs are available at any of the shelters in Sonoma County. Following is a list of participating shelters.

**\*Sonoma County Animal Regulation**  
1247 Century Court, Santa Rosa – (707) 565-7100

**\*Humane Society & SPCA of Sonoma County**  
5345 Highway 12 West, Santa Rosa  
(707) 284-1198 or (707) 542-0882

**Pets Lifeline**  
19686 Eighth Street East, Sonoma  
(707) 996-4577

**Petaluma Animal Shelter**  
840 Hopper Street Extension, Petaluma  
(707) 778-4396

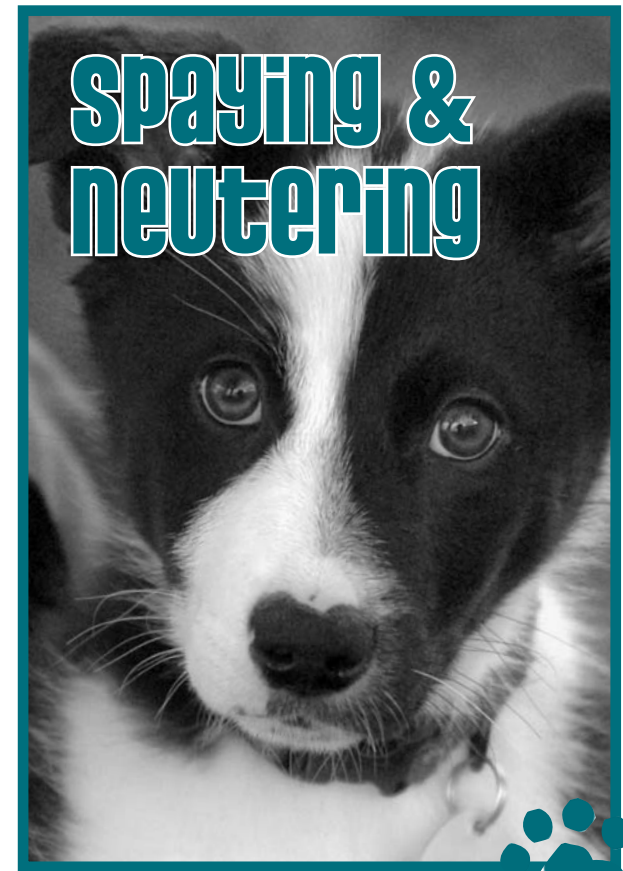
**Cotati / Rohnert Park Animal Shelter**  
301J. Rogers Lane, Rohnert Park  
(707) 584-1582

**Healdsburg Animal Shelter**  
570 Westside Road, Healdsburg – (707) 431-3386

**\*Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County**  
(non-sheltering feral cat spay/neuter programs)  
1814 Empire Industrial Court, Santa Rosa  
(707) 576-7999

\*indicates on-site spay/neuter clinics

## SPAY/NEUTER HOTLINE: (707) 579-SPAY



# SPAYING & NEUTERING

## save a life

### in this brochure

- Information about Spaying & Neutering Pets
- Sonoma County Spay/Neuter Assistance Programs
- Contact Information of Shelters in Sonoma County

**be a responsible pet owner**  
we make it easy for you

# SPAYING & NEUTERING OF PETS

## the pet population problem

Every year, millions of unwanted dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, are needlessly destroyed. The good news is that every pet owner can make a difference. By having your dog or cat spayed or neutered, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens and you will enhance your pet's health and quality of life.

## pet behavior & reproduction

Contrary to what some people believe, getting pregnant — even once — does not improve the behavior of female dogs and cats. In fact, the mating instinct may lead to undesirable behaviors and result in undue stress on both the owner and the animal.

While both spaying and neutering are surgical procedures, they are very common. Your pet will receive a thorough physical examination before and after surgery, and may or may not require an overnight stay at the veterinarian's office.

## what are the benefits of spaying and neutering?

Both spaying and neutering generally lead to improved long-term health, prevent unwanted litters, and eliminate many behavior problems associated with the mating instinct such as: mounting, spraying and fighting, which result in a decrease in costly vet bills too.



### benefits to your female pet

Spaying may help to reduce negative behavior in dogs and cats. Early spaying of female dogs and cats helps protect them from serious health problems later in life such as uterine infections, FIV, Leukemia and breast cancer.

### benefits to your male pet

Neutering male dogs and cats tends to have a calming effect that can make them less aggressive, less inclined to roam, mount, spray or fight and more content to stay at home. Neutering your male pet also improves his health by reducing the risk of prostate disease, testicular cancer, FIV, Leukemia and infections.

## what is the best age to spay or neuter a pet?

A dog or cat can be spayed or neutered at almost any age. Your veterinarian can advise you on the most appropriate time for your particular pet based upon its breed, age and physical condition.

## does the procedure change my pet's ability to learn, work, play or hunt?

The procedure has no effect on a pet's intelligence or ability to learn, play, work or hunt. Most pets tend to be better behaved following the operation, making them more desirable companions. Guide dogs, search & rescue dogs and other working breeds are spayed and neutered without any effects on their capabilities. Contrary to popular belief, the surgery does not make your pet fat.

## while the surgery cost is relatively low, is it really worth it?

Yes! This is a one-time expense that can dramatically improve your pet's quality of life, and save you expensive medical bills in the long run. If you are still uncertain whether or not to proceed with the surgery, consider the expense to society of collecting and caring for all the unwanted, abused, or abandoned animals being housed in shelters — most with little chance of finding permanent homes.

Having your pet spayed or neutered is a part of responsible pet ownership and an important investment in your pet's long-term good health.

