

Further Reading for You or Your Veterinarian:

There are obvious reasons to spay or neuter your pet as soon as possible. These reasons are for the general animal population or for your pet's health in general.

Population Control is a growing concern and by spaying or neutering your pet, you can help contribute to reducing this problem. Responsible pet owners can and should make a collective effort to insure that all pets are neutered preventing any further increases in unwanted pets.

Susan Dixon, DVM fully endorses early altering and has done hundreds of baby kittens. "The surgery is EASY and the kittens heal so fast".

A Healthy Pet is a happy pet and the earlier they are spayed or neutered the less likely they are to remember the procedure and the more likely they are to have a speedy recovery.

So, ask your veterinarian about concerns you may have on early spay/neuter.

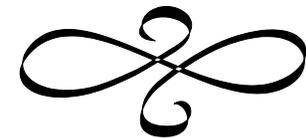
Further Reading for You or Your Veterinarian:

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Early Spay & Neuter

...the pros and cons



An informative look at the pros and cons of early spay or neuter

A Brief Look at Early Spay & Neuter

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The concept of early spaying and neutering (before the animal is sexually mature) is not a new one. The philosophy of early spaying and neutering of pets has been practiced for over 50 years in North America. It was not until much later that questions and concerns were raised about the possibility of negative side effects in practicing this procedure.

Concerns that were raised, while determining at what age an animal should be spayed or neutered, were that the animal may suffer from long term effects such as; stunted growth, a higher tendency to obesity, a lack of desire to be active or an undesirable behavior pattern. It was believed waiting until a patient was older increased the safety of surgery, as well, concerns that early altering could increase the incidence of feline lower urinary tract disease, have been voiced.

These concerns have been tested and researched thoroughly by many different universities and have resulted in some findings that are worth studying and understanding before making any conclusions on when to spay or neuter your pet.



Studies Conducted on the Benefits or Drawbacks of Early Spay or Neuter done by The University of Florida.

These studies were funded by The Winn Feline Foundation in conjunction with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). These *extensive studies* were monitored very seriously and concluded that the spaying or neutering of an animal, before it has reached sexual maturity, has *no known ill side effects*. *On the contrary*, research has founded that early spaying or neutering of your pet can aid in the recovery process, giving your pet a speedy and virtually painless recovery. Years ago, when safe pediatric anesthetic techniques were not available, waiting until a patient was older increased the safety of surgery. Altering no longer needs to be delayed for this reason. These studies were conducted on animals ranging from 7 weeks old to 12 months old. *Those 7 weeks old did not react any differently than those who were 12 months old.*

Results from the studies performed in Florida were as follows:

Growth may be prolonged if the procedure is performed prior to sexual maturity or the animal's first heat. However, this can be a benefit for the pet owner who has an unusually small pet and would like for it to become a little larger.



Observations of urinary tract development showed no differences between those altered early and those altered post 7mos other than the differences related to sex. The investigators measured the diameter of the urethra in the male kittens and found no differences between the groups.

Contrary to popular belief, the neutered group of animals were just as active as their unaltered counterparts.

Spaying a female can actually protect her against mammary cancer and uterine infections. In males, neutering reduces the risk of testicular cancer and enlargement of the prostate and related infections.

From a pet owners point of view, the altered pet is a much better companion than their unaltered counterparts. They have a tendency to be less aggressive and more affectionate, and since they are not motivated by the urge to reproduce, they are less prone to roam and fight.

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TICA Feline Welfare Committee