



Why Spay and Neuter?

Protect Pets. Prevent Suffering. Strengthen Henry County.

Overpopulation and the resulting neglect and mass euthanasia are compelling reasons for spaying and neutering. There can never be enough good homes for all the puppies and kittens born, including purebreds.

What Is Spaying & Neutering?

Spaying (female) and neutering (male) are safe, routine surgeries that prevent reproduction and reduce health risks. They're the most effective way to combat pet overpopulation and improve animal welfare.

Health Benefits for Your Pet

- **Longer, Healthier Life:** Spayed cats live 39% longer; neutered dogs live up to 18% longer. Evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat tend to be healthier.
- **Cancer Prevention:** Reduces risk of mammary, uterine, and testicular cancers.
- **Fewer Infections:** Prevents life-threatening uterine infections and prostate issues.

Behavioral Benefits

- **Calmer Temperament:** Less aggression, roaming, and marking.
- **No Heat Cycles:** Eliminates yowling, spraying, and restlessness.
- **Safer at Home:** Pets are less likely to escape, fight, or get injured.

Financial Wisdom

- **Lower Lifetime Costs** Surgery costs far less than caring for a litter or treating reproductive diseases.
- **Public Savings** Fewer strays mean reduced taxpayer burden for animal control and shelter services.

Community Impact

- **Rapid Population Growth:** With more families moving in, pet overpopulation is rising faster than local resources can manage.
- **Fewer Strays:** Prevents unwanted litters and reduces feral animal suffering.
- **Shelter Relief:** Eases burden on shelters and rescues, allowing better care for existing animals.

“If we truly care about animals, we can’t just rescue the ones already suffering — we have to stop the cycle that creates the suffering in the first place.” **Spay and neuter works.**

**Need assistance with spay/neuter costs? Learn more about
HCHS’s [No More Litters](#) program.**