



Promoting HEALTHY PETS in LA County

SPAY/NEUTER

Should I Spay/Neuter My Pet?

YES! It's a Lifesaver! Every year more than 50,000 dogs and cats end up homeless in Los Angeles County shelters. Others never make it to shelters and suffer in the streets. Spaying or neutering pets prevents animals from being born accidentally, and is an effective and humane way to save animals' lives.

What is Spay/Neuter?

A spay is the surgical removal of a female animal's reproductive organs. A neuter is the surgical removal of a male animal's testicles. Both surgeries are performed by a veterinarian while animals are under general anesthesia.

Benefits for Your Pet & for You

A longer, healthier life for your pet:

- * Decreased chance of mammary cancer & uterine infections in females
- * Decreased chance of prostate problems & testicular cancer in males
- * Pets that are spayed/neutered are 3 times less likely to bite.
- * Spaying/neutering helps with unwanted behaviors such as roaming, anxiousness, and pets are less likely to spray and mark their territory.

PARASITE CONTROL

External parasites can be prevented and controlled by using topical flea and tick control (applied monthly), which should be used year-round. **MANY DOG** flea/tick products **CANNOT** be used on cats. Read labels carefully! To prevent and treat internal parasites, like hookworms, whipworms and heartworm, monthly deworming medications are recommended to be prescribed by your veterinarian. Have your pet tested regularly (at least once a year) for parasites by a veterinarian.

TRAINING YOUR PET

Training is important in helping to keep pets and people safe. Many pets are taken to shelters each year because of troublesome behavior that could have

been prevented. Teaching basic skills by positive training (reward) is essential. Punishing dogs is NOT an effective training method and often makes your pet afraid or aggressive. Teaching your pet good manners, like how to sit, walk on a leash, greet people respectfully, and urinate and defecate in the appropriate places (outside, litterbox, etc), will benefit you and your pet.

ZOONOSES & HYGIENE

Zoonotic diseases ("zoonoses") are diseases pets and humans can share. Some of these diseases are spread directly from infected animals to people through contact with skin, saliva, stool, or through bites or scratches. Examples include ringworm, roundworm, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, and rabies. Other zoonotic diseases can be spread to people through flea or tick bites, including Murine Typhus, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease.

Steps to Protect You & Your Pet from Zoonoses

- * Frequent hand-washing, tick checks, flea and mosquito control, avoiding "pet kisses," cleaning up your pet's feces frequently, using care when cleaning litter boxes and other precautions.
- * Many zoonotic diseases can be prevented in pets by vaccination and parasite control.



* Wellness exams performed by your veterinarian can help detect and treat zoonotic infections before they become serious.

WELLNESS CARE

Pets age much faster than humans do. For this reason, pets should be seen by their veterinarian 1 to 2 times every year. Ask your veterinarian's opinion about your pet's diet, behavior, parasite control, oral hygiene, skin and coat, and general health. Routine blood testing can assist in the early detection of disease. Such tests can greatly enhance the detection of disease at an early stage and help prolong the life of your pet.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccination is a vital way to protect pets' health. Vaccinating your pet is much less expensive than trying to treat serious diseases. Distemper and Parvo, which cause life-threatening illness in dogs, are very common in LA County. Vaccinating your pet will also save you and your family a lot of heartache.

Many people do not realize that only one vaccination series is not sufficient to protect your pet, and need to be boosted. The American Animal Hospital Association recommends certain vaccines for all dogs and cats:

BASIC DOG VACCINATIONS



Rabies

All ages: 1st - Age 16 wks or more
2nd - 12 months later
Boosters - every 3 yrs

Distemper-Parvo Combo (DHPP)

Puppies: 1st - Age 6-8 wks
2nd - 3-4 wks later
3rd - 3-4 wks later
4th - 12 months later
Booster every 1-3 yrs

Adults: 1st - right away
2nd - 3-4 wks later
3rd - 12 months later
Booster every 1-3 yrs

BASIC CAT VACCINATIONS



Rabies

All ages: 1st - 16 wks of age or more
2nd - 12 months later
Boosters - every 3 yrs

Panleukopenia Combo (FVRCP)

Kittens: 1st - Age 6-8 wks
2nd - 3-4 wks later
3rd - 3-4 wks later
4th - 12 months later
Booster every 1-3 yrs

Adults: 1st - right away
2nd - 3-4 wks later
3rd - 12 months later
Booster every 1-3 yrs

For many pets, additional vaccines may be needed. Ask your veterinarian for more information.

LICENSING

All dogs over the age of 4 months in the County of Los Angeles must have a license issued by the local area animal control authority. Licensing allows owners to be reunited with their pets in case the pet is lost. Proof of rabies vaccination is required.

For more information on healthy pets:

Companion Animal Parasite Council

www.petsandparasites.org/

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
Care for Animals

www.avma.org/careforanimals/default.aspx

LA County Veterinary Public Health

publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/

American Animal Hospital Association

www.healthypet.com/

CDC's Healthy Pets, Healthy People

cdc.gov/Features/HealthyPets/



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health
Veterinary Public Health & Rabies Control