# SPAY-NEUTER FACTS

Pets should be surgically spayed/neutered for many reasons:

# FEMALES (Spaying - Ovariohysterectomy)

- Prevents signs of estrus (heat).
- Prevents blood stains on the carpet from the "heat" cycle.
- Decreases surplus of kittens.
- Decreases the chance of developing breast tumors later in life.
- Decreases the chance of cystic ovaries and uterine infections later in life.
- Anesthesia is less risky at the younger age.
- Prevents breast development if done before breeding age.

## **MALES (Neutering - Castration)**

- Decreases the desire to roam the neighborhood.
- Decreases aggression become more loving pets (more affectionate).
- Decreases incidence of prostate cancer later in life.
- Prevents odor of male cat urine.
- Prevents male cat spraying and marking furniture and walls.

## Your community will also benefit!

Unwanted animals are becoming a very real concern. Stray animals can easily become a public nuisance; soiling parks and streets, ruining shrubs, frightening children or elderly people, creating noise and other disturbances, causing automobile accidents, and sometimes even killing livestock or other pets. As a potential source of rabies and other diseases, they can become a public health hazard. The capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals will cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

## Facts about Spaying/Neutering:

- Spaying does not cause a pet to get fat or lazy. This comes from overfeeding and poor exercise.
- Personalities are not altered by spaying. Personalities do not fully develop until two years of age.
- Aggressiveness and viciousness are not the result of surgery. Personalities will ONLY get better!
- Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and techniques, but there is always some small risk when an anesthetic is used.
- It is much easier on the pet to be spayed before going through a "heat" cycle, due to the smaller size of the reproductive tract.
- The best age to spay or neuter cats is any time after 3 months of age.
- Surgery is performed painlessly while your pet is under general anesthesia. Postsurgical pain is minimal. Most pets go home the same day surgery is performed.