



Spaying and Neutering of Companion Animals

Position:

Spaying of females and neutering of males is necessary and desirable for both the effective control of unwanted animal populations and providing health and behaviour benefits to the animals themselves.

As such, the CHS supports:

- Sterilization of dogs, cats, rabbits, and ferrets that are not intended for responsible breeding purposes.
- Municipal authorities charging differential license fees for sterilized versus unsterilized companion animals. Spaying or neutering all dogs, cats, rabbits or ferrets, whether sold or adopted prior to moving them to their permanent homes.
- Early (pediatric) spay and neuter of cats and dogs.

Spay and neuter not only helps to reduce the population of unwanted, homeless companion animals, but also carries a number of behaviour and health benefits for animals.

These benefits include the following:

- Eliminating or reducing sexual behaviours such as marking, aggression, roaming, or fighting.
- Reducing the risk of some diseases influenced by hormones, e.g., cancers, prostatic disease, pyometria.

NOTE: Pet owners should consult with their veterinarian about the right spay/neuter options for their pet.