

Spaying and Neutering:

Good for you, good for your pet, good for your community!



What is spay and neuter?

Strictly speaking, the word “spay” refers to the sterilisation of female animals by virtue of the surgical removal of the ovaries and the word “neuter” refers to the sterilisation of male animals by virtue of the surgical removal of the testicles. However, the word “neuter” is often used to describe the sterilisation of both male and female animals and this is the way in which the term should be interpreted in this leaflet. Both are simple, routine veterinary procedures carried out under general anaesthetic. Once spayed or neutered, dogs or cats will have no more puppies or kittens.

Why neuter your pet?

67,000 dogs can result from the mating of one unsterilized dog and all of their offspring in just six years. In Palestine, there is a large stray animal population, living on the streets. These animals suffer from poor welfare due to lack of care and good nutrition. They also cause problems for the community by spreading refuse around, barking and, occasionally, biting people. The stray population is likely to be made up of abandoned pet animals and their offspring, as well as escaped working animals and their offspring.



If those people who keep dogs or cats as pets allow those animals to breed without any control, this will inevitably lead to unwanted offspring who cannot be rehomed. This leads to more animals being abandoned and joining the stray population, thus adding to the existing problem. **If you neuter your pet, you help to reduce stray dog and cat nuisance in your community.**

Dogs and cats who have been neutered are happier and healthier. Some cancers are thought to be avoided in neutered animals, female animals are not subjected to repeated pregnancies and pet owners are not burdened with unwanted puppies and kittens. Neutered dogs are thought to be less aggressive and males do not roam looking for mates. Females do not come into heat and attract unwanted attention from male dogs. Neutered cats become less territorial and nuisance behaviours, such as urine spraying, are reduced.

This leaflet was produced by the Palestinian Animal League (PAL) in 2015 for use in the organisation's humane spay and neuter programme for street animals. The final educational materials produced were published in English and Arabic and can be downloaded from www.pal.ps.



Is the operation painful for my pet?

The simple operation is carried out under general anaesthetic and painkillers will be given to your pet to ensure he or she does not experience pain or suffering. He or she will need to be given some extra care in the days following the operation, but should be back to normal after around seven to ten days.

How much does it cost?

Al Najah vet school in Tulkarm is offering subsidized pet neutering to residents of the city at the cost of 100 shekels per animal. *[Prices correct as at September 2015, may be subject to change].*



How do I make an appointment?

Please call Al Najah Vet School, Tulkarm, Palestine, to arrange for your pet to be neutered. Please do not come to the clinic without calling and making an appointment first.

In taking part in the scheme and neutering your pets, you will be taking a responsible and kind step which will help to protect you, your pet and your community. Thank you!