Spay Today...No Excuses!

Each year, millions of cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies are dropped off at animal shelters. Why are there so many homeless animals? A major reason is that many pets are not **spayed** or **neutered**.

Spaying and neutering are operations that prevent pets from having babies. Female animals are spayed; males are neutered. The operations take only a short time in a veterinarian's office, and pets recover quickly.

Look at the seven most common reasons people give for *not* spaying or neutering their pets. Match each with the best response on the right.

"She's just a kitten. I have plenty of time."

"Once he's neutered, Spunky will get lazy and overweight."

"Operations make me nervous. I want my pet to be happy and healthy."

"We can't afford it."

"If our pets have babies, we'll find homes for them."

"Our dog is a male, so he can't have puppies anyway."

"Daisy's an indoor cat, so I don't have to worry."

Some veterinarians and animal shelters offer free or low-cost spaying and neutering. If you can't afford to spay or neuter your pet, how will you afford to raise her kittens or puppies?

Getting too many treats and not enough exercise is actually what would make Spunky chunky!

Even if you find homes for your pet's babies, couldn't those homes have gone to cats and dogs in shelters instead?

Most people are surprised at how soon their pets can get pregnant. Vets agree that kittens and puppies can be spayed early, as young as 8 to 14 weeks of age.

Spaying and neutering are good for your pets' health. The operations reduce or eliminate pets' chances of getting certain kinds of cancer and other diseases. They can also make pets less likely to bite or run away from home.

Mistakes happen even in the most careful households. Doors or windows can be left open and—oopsy, Daisy!—pets can accidentally get outside. Don't take a chance; spay today.

Your male dog could make an unspayed female pregnant. When it comes to pet overpopulation, people need to take responsibility whether their pets are male or female.

Underline ten adjectives on this page. (Adjectives are words that describe something or someone.) Use each adjective in a new sentence about spaying and neutering.

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