

No Kill Equation - High Volume/Low Cost Spay/Neuter Programs  
(a "keep them out" element)

Having pets spayed and neutered makes perfect sense to most pet caregivers. Most of us will never even try to enter our pet into a formal breeding standards competition, so there is no reason to keep them intact. Altered pets can live 2 to 3 years longer than pets who are not sterilized, they are less prone to many diseases and cancers and they are less apt to roam. If you've ever lost a beloved pet to age or disease, it is likely you would give almost anything to have just a few more days with them.

Most people who don't have pets spayed and neutered do not think it is necessary or they think they cannot afford it. For those who say it is not necessary, put your pet first. If you know your pet can live longer and be more healthy, isn't that what you want for them? And if you think you cannot afford to have it done, we say you cannot afford to not have it done. It costs far less to have a pet spayed or neutered than it does for you to handle the cost of a litter of animals or than it does for the municipal shelter to destroy that litter of animals.

When it comes to high volume/low cost spay/neuter, many communities have non-profit clinics which do nothing but spay and neuter surgeries, charging much less than full-service veterinary clinics. Because spay and neuter is all these clinics do, they are experts at the process. If you use your own veterinarian to have your animals altered, that is wonderful. If you think you can't afford it, please do some research to see if there is a low-cost clinic near you. It may be more affordable than you think and depending on where you live, you may be eligible for certain programs to help offset costs.

When we spay and neuter our pets, we keep pet populations down and we never have to deal with the reality of puppies and kittens entering our shelter, only to be destroyed. They are incredibly cute. But when multiple litters are surrendered to a traditional shelter on any given day, only some are spared. Let's not even put the shelter in a position to make choices about pets we did not anticipate. Spay and neuter makes perfect sense for them, for us and for our community.