

Spaying and Neutering FAQ

When is it safe to spay or neuter my pet?

Generally, it is safe to spay or neuter most kittens and puppies at eight weeks of age. However, be sure to check with your veterinarian and have your pet evaluated before scheduling spay or neuter surgery.

Won't my female pet be healthier if I allow her to have one litter or go through one heat cycle?

No. In fact, the opposite is true. If spayed before their first heat cycle, the risk of mammary cancer in female dogs and cats is virtually eliminated. If allowed to go through even just one heat cycle, the risk of developing mammary cancer later in life greatly increases.

Will my animal's behavior change after being altered?

Your animal's behavior will not change except that male dogs and cats will be less likely to fight or roam and spayed females will no longer go into heat.

Important Terminology

Spay: Also known as ovariectomy. The female pet's ovaries and uterus are removed.

Neuter: Also known as castration. The male pet's testicles are removed.

Heat: Also known as estrus. The mating period of female animals.

Information found at spayusa.org and americanhumane.org



For more information about the Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter

Visit: Metroanimalshelter.org

Call: (205) 752-9101

Lost & Found: (205) 349-8538

Email: mas@hiiway.net

TMAS Hours & Location

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday and Sunday: CLOSED

3140 35th St.

Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

For more information about euthanasia in the United States visit

Peta.org

Americanhumane.org

Humanesociety.org

Spayusa.org



Euthanasia

EDUCATE, UNDERSTAND, HELP



General Euthanasia Information

Approximately six to eight million animals are handled by animal shelters in the United States each year. Even though some are reclaimed or adopted, nearly four million unwanted dogs and cats are left with nowhere to go. Shelters cannot humanely house and support all these animals until their natural deaths—they would be forced to live in cramped cages or kennels for years, lonely and stressed, and other animals would have to be turned away because there would not be room for them.*



Because of the high number of unwanted companion animals and the lack of good homes, sometimes the most humane thing that a shelter worker can do is give an animal a peaceful release from a world in which dogs and cats are often considered “surplus” and unwanted. PETA, The American Veterinary Medical Association, and The Humane Society of the United States concur that an intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital administered by a trained professional is the kindest, most compassionate method of euthanizing animals. The American Humane Association considers this to be the only acceptable method of euthanasia for cats and dogs in animal shelters.

*Information found at Peta.org



Prevention

Animal shelters' main goal is to save animals' lives and they never willingly choose to put any animal down, but without the correct forms of prevention they have to.

Adoption
Fostering
Spaying and Neutering
Microchipping
ID collars

The more animals get adopted, the more space the shelter has to keep and take in more animals. The more foster homes available, the greater the chance an animal can stay healthy and be adopted. Spaying and neutering is necessary to keep the animal population low and has proven to lower euthanasia rates. In addition, microchipping your pet and putting an ID collar on your pet will help reunite lost pets with their owners.



Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter's Euthanasia Impact



2014 Statistics

TOTAL INTAKE

Dogs: 2,041 Cats: 1,104
Puppies: 1,471 Kittens: 1,285
Other: 58

ADOPTED
Dogs: 312
Puppies: 314
Cats: 125
Kittens: 154
Other: 17

REDEMPTION
Dogs & Puppies: 394
Cats & Kittens: 37
Other: 5

RESCUED
Dogs & Puppies: 408
Cats & Kittens: 134
Other: 14

EUTHANIZED
Dogs: 1,143
Puppies: 758
Cats: 956
Kittens: 905

