

## **TOP 10 WORST REASONS NOT TO SPAY/NEUTER YOUR CAT**

1. **It's too expensive!** Compared to what? Compare the cost of caring for a new litter kittens with the cost of this one-time surgery, and you'll be dollars ahead in a matter of weeks or months.
2. **I never let my cat out of my sight.** Please. No one is that diligent. In-heat females and determined males will find a way to get together. The screen door only has to stay ajar for a few seconds for your sexually active cat to escape and find a mate.
3. **We always find good homes for the kittens.** No one has that many friends or relatives willing to take your kittens. Besides, giving a kitten away doesn't always guarantee the animal a loving home. Do you want the possibility of an owner's abuse, abandonment, or neglect on your conscience?
4. **We thought they were too young to alter.** Kittens can be safely altered at eight weeks; don't wait longer than six months. Pet ownership means taking responsibility for the animal's welfare - ignorance is no excuse.
5. **They'll get fat and lazy.** Adult cats, like humans, can put on pounds. Watching kitty's calories and encouraging exercise will maintain your cat's health and weight. A healthy lifestyle (not having or making kittens) will ensure a slim and healthy pet.
6. **I want my children to witness the miracle of birth.** OK, but you don't have to produce kittens for your children to have this experience. Contact a local shelter or rescue group to find out if you can foster a pregnant cat. You and yours can enjoy the birth process - the shelter has the responsibility for finding homes for the offspring.
7. **An animal needs one litter to calm it down.** Let us put this old wives' tale to rest. There's no medical evidence to support it.
8. **I want a cat that looks like "Muffin" (or) I want to see what happens when I cross my Siamese with my neighbor's Manx.** You'll probably end up with a litter of kittens nobody wants. Leave breeding to professional breeders who know what they're doing.
9. **We have lots of room and love animals.** If you truly love cats, alter the ones you have to give them the healthiest possible life. And if you want more, adopt them from a shelter or rescue group and give existing cats a chance for a better life.
10. **I was going to do it, but.....** Don't wait. Do it now! Your cat will thank you.