



## **Spay / Neuter Your Companion Rabbit!**

### ■ Why You Should Not Allow Your Rabbit to Breed

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Every year many unwanted pet rabbits are relinquished to shelters. Because there are not enough homes for all of these rabbits, many are euthanized. Sometimes a pet rabbit is released into the wild. As a prey animal, his chance for survival is poor. Rabbits are prolific breeders who have large litters. Even if you are able to find homes for all of the babies that your rabbit has produced, you are taking away a possible home from a shelter rabbit. The best solution is to have your companion rabbit spayed or neutered before they reproduce.

### ■ It's Good for His Health

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Spaying or neutering eliminates the risk of cancers to reproductive organs.

Un-neutered rabbits are more likely to fight, which often results in bite wounds that can cause abscesses

### ■ Reduces Undesirable Behaviors

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Some of the most common reasons that pet rabbits are surrendered to shelters are behavior problems that can be modified or eliminated by spaying or neutering.

Neutering reduces undesirable behaviors such as aggression, destructiveness, mounting and spraying. After he is neutered, your rabbit will be a calmer and happier companion and will be easier to litter box train. You will be able to have bonded male/female pairs without the risk of unplanned and unwanted litters.

### ■ Appropriate Age to Alter a Rabbit

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Most veterinarians will alter female rabbits after four months of age and male rabbits after three and a half months, although your vet may recommend waiting a month or two beyond these ages. If your rabbit is over six years old, your veterinarian should examine the rabbit to ensure that he is in good enough health to undergo anesthesia.

### ■ How to Find an Experienced Rabbit Veterinarian

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*It is important to choose a veterinarian who is knowledgeable about rabbit anatomy and who will use isofluorene or sevofluane gas for anesthesia.* Please see our website, our Portland Area Rabbit Vets article, or call our Helpline for a list of veterinarians in the area who our volunteers call when their service is needed and who have demonstrated knowledge in rabbit health issues.