

Other Public health and safety benefits from Spay/Neuter programs

- Prevention and control of rabies and other zoonotic diseases is a public health issue in the U.S. and Maryland according to the Centers for Disease Control and the Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene.
 - Testimony and data received by the Maryland Spay and Neuter Task Force from Md. DHMH indicates that:
 - Rabies is a significant disease and ongoing threat to Maryland residents;
 - There is a public health concern re: intact animals because they are more likely to roam and present public health risks from rabies and other disease;
 - Cats and dogs can carry, transmit, and spread the raccoon strain of rabies, the most prevalent strain of rabies in Maryland.
 - The CDC rabies prevention guidelines include spaying/neutering to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or vaccinated regularly.
 - Spay/Neuter programs provide the opportunity to sterilize as well as vaccinate additional animals to help reduce rabies risk to humans, livestock, and other animals.
 - Sterilization can reduce roaming and other behaviors, thereby reducing the public health risk from rabies and other disease.
 - Spay/Neuter programs also provide an opportunity for outreach to owners re: the proper care and vaccinations of pets (healthy animals are less likely to transmit diseases per AVMA and the CDC).

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/animals.html>
<http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/rabies.htm>
<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/spay-neuter.aspx>

- Reduction in human-animal conflicts including dog bites is a public health issue in the U.S. and Maryland.
 - Unaltered dogs are more likely to bite and spay/neuter is recommended to help prevent dog bites by the Centers for Disease Control, American Veterinarian Medical Association, US Postal Service, and the Insurance Information Institute, among others.
 - Human-animal conflicts from roaming pets may include: dog bites, property damage, domestic animal or livestock injury, property damage, auto accidents, and environmental issues associated with animal waste. Unaltered dogs are more likely to roam and spay/neuter can help reduce conflicts from roaming pets.

<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/DogBites/biteprevention.html#howtoprevent>
https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/files/productdownloads/dog_bite_brochure.pdf
<http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22336/html/cover.htm#ep1369088>
http://www.iii.org/press_releases/prevent-dog-bites-and-a-lawsuit-average-cost-of-dog-bite-claims-is-on-the-rise.html