

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA has been caring for unwanted rabbits for decades. Though the numbers of incoming rabbits has been greatly reduced, in part, because of our education efforts, we can further improve with your help.



Your Questions Answered

Why should I spay or neuter my rabbit?

Many reasons, really. Altered (spayed or neutered) rabbits avoid uterine and testicular cancer, thereby increasing their lifespan. Altered rabbits are also less likely to exhibit obnoxious behaviors, such as spraying, fighting and biting, and can be paired with rabbits of the opposite sex for companionship.

Is surgery safe for rabbits?

Yes! When performed by experienced veterinarians, spaying and neutering can be quite safe. However, as with any surgical or anesthetic procedure for animals (or humans, for that matter) some risk of complications, including death, exist.

At what age should rabbits be spayed or neutered?

Male testicles descend at about 3 ½ months of age, and females reach sexual maturity around 4 months of age. Most veterinarians prefer to wait a little longer before performing surgery to minimize the risks for the rabbit. PHS/SPCA has a minimum age limit of 6 months for male rabbits and one year for female rabbits.

I see that your rates are much lower than private practice spay/neuter rates. Does this reflect a lower quality of service?

If anything, it's the opposite. Our vets perform far more spay/neuter surgeries than private practice vets; this is our specialty. Also, making spay/neuter affordable for all pet owners is part of our mission.

How should I prepare my rabbit for surgery?

Do not fast your rabbit before its surgery. Rabbits must have food and water available at all times. If your rabbit is overweight, he/she should be placed on a weight reduction diet, under your veterinarian's supervision.

How about post-surgery care?

After surgery, have your rabbit's cage ready as usual and separate him/her from your other pets. Neutered males should not be put in contact with unaltered females for at least three weeks after surgery. Do not encourage any exercise and refrain from picking-up your rabbit unnecessarily. Offer your rabbit what he or she normally eats, as well as "treats" (parsley, apples, and carrots). Monitor your rabbit's appetite, but know that he or she may not be interested in food the night after surgery. Contact your veterinarian if your rabbit does not eat after 24 hours. Check your rabbit's incision twice a day- it should be free of blood or discharge. Bruising or swelling of the incision/scrotum may occur, but it is normal. You may notice that your female rabbit has two small dark lines, one on each side, parallel to her incision. These are thin tattoo lines to indicate she has been spayed. If a female pulls her stitches out, call the PHS/SPCA Spay & Neuter Clinic for an incision check.