



Altered Pet Policy (Published January 2005/Updated February 2011)

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet **requires** any DOG or CAT entering our Foster Home Program to be spayed or neutered.

In spite of this policy, we periodically receive requests to foster pets that are unaltered, along with questions about the purpose of our policy, so please consider the following information and note that we do provide for several very specific exceptions.

What difference does it make to Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet if my pet is altered or not? While there is strong consensus among veterinarians that spaying and neutering dogs and cats makes them happier, healthier pets, adding up to two years, on average, to their life expectancy, GASP has no "pet politics" agenda at play, here. The policy is simply a matter of practicality.

FACT: Most of our foster home volunteers already own one or more pets. The frequency and severity of fighting and other undesirable behavior problems is greatly increased when there is an unaltered pet in the household.

FACT: When faced with "nature's call" to reproduce, unaltered dogs and cats can exhibit behavior ranging from mildly unsettled, to excessively stressed, to agitated and even belligerent. These pets are more inclined to wonder off and some are determined to escape, despite the best efforts of the foster home to contain them. The safety of both pets and care givers are a genuine and reasonable concern.

FACT: Few foster homes are willing to take on the increased hygiene needs of a female in heat.

FACT: If unaltered, neither the organization nor foster home can guarantee that a female pet will avoid unwanted pregnancy, or a male pet will not cause one. Unwanted pregnancies introduce unwanted health, financial and other liabilities that the organization and our foster homes are unable to assume.

Are there ANY exceptions to this policy? Yes . . . there are several very specific exceptions. Meeting one of these criteria does not guarantee the availability of a suitable foster home, only that we will attempt to locate one for you.

MEDICAL: Very rarely a pet may suffer from a disease or health condition which makes any surgery inadvisable. A full health history and letter of explanation from the veterinarian is required.

AGE: It may be advisable, in the youngest pets, to delay alteration until age-appropriate as determined by the veterinarian. A written, signed plan (age/date, payment arrangements, clinic of choice, etc) for the surgical alteration must be executed in advance, and accompany the written/signed foster care agreement

PREGNANCY/LITTER: We can attempt to locate a foster home willing to take on the tremendous burden of a litter if necessary, but success is unlikely. If a foster home is available, arrangements for spaying as soon as medically safe to do so will be required. A written, signed plan for both the surgical alteration and the litter must be executed in advance, and accompany the signed/written foster care agreement



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ACTIVE SHOW ANIMAL (Dog/cat is a finished or pointed champion (conformation only) intended for formal breeding program): We can attempt to locate a foster home willing to take on the tremendous burden of an “active show animal”, but success is unlikely. If a foster home is willing to foster such animal, then pedigree, registration papers, title documentation, and breeder or breed club referral required. **Simply having a desire to breed or show your pet does not meet this criteria.**

NOTE: If you own a show animal or plan to breed your pet in the future, consider contacting your breeder about your circumstances. Most reputable breeders would be a willing and helpful resource in locating an appropriate temporary “show home.”