

RESOLUTION #9—2025
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
Board of Directors

Pediatric Sterilization of Dogs, Cats and Rabbits

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the revised policy on Pediatric Sterilization of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits as noted below (additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~).

The AVMA recognizes there are multiple methods available or under development to sterilize animals and supports the concept of pediatric ~~spay/neuter reproductive sterilization~~ in dogs, and cats, and rabbits in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted animals of these species. Modern pediatric anesthesia and surgery have been shown to be safe, effective, and have low rates of surgical complications. Just as for other veterinary medical and surgical procedures, ~~v~~ Veterinarians should use their best professional judgment based on the current scientific literature in ~~deciding~~ recommending at what age ~~spay/neuter reproductive sterilization~~ should be performed on individual animals, weighing both individual animal considerations as well as population level considerations, where applicable. ~~The decision should be made by the animal's owner in consultation with a veterinarian after discussing associated~~ The AVMA encourages further research to better understand the risks and benefits of reproductive sterilization at all ages.

Statement about the Resolution

The Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) reviewed the policy at its spring 2025 meeting. The AWC believes the policy remains relevant and that professional judgement based on current scientific knowledge continues to be best practice for veterinarians when making medical recommendations. The inclusion of rabbits as one of the most commonly sterilized pets for population management is a significant addition to the policy. Further, the term 'reproductive sterilization' is proposed to replace 'spay/neuter' to acknowledge that there are now multiple methods available or under development that may be used to prevent reproduction. Additional resources related to gonadectomy and reproductive sterilization of dogs and cats are available at avma.org/spayneuter. A clean copy of the revised policy is [attached](#).

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #2	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X	X		
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				