IS SPAY/NEUTER LEGAL?

Has your state, county or municipality issued stay-at-home orders or placed restrictions on business activity?

YES

NO

Spay/neuter is legal.

Is “veterinary care” (or the equivalent term) listed in the emergency rules or supplemental government-issued guidance as an essential service or business that may continue to operate?

YES

NO

This would be unusual, so double-check. But if veterinary care is not deemed essential, then spay/neuter is not legal.

Is spay/neuter expressly listed in the rules or guidance as essential veterinary care?

YES

NO

Spay/neuter is legal.

Is essential veterinary care limited in the rules or guidance to critical, life-threatening emergencies?

YES

NO

Spay/neuter is not legal unless done as part of critical emergency care.

Has your state’s veterinary licensing board (aka board of examiners) issued rules prohibiting spay/neuter?

YES

NO

The board’s interpretation of the stay-at-home rules could be subject to legal challenge, but the outcome would be uncertain.

Spay/neuter is legal, and it is within the discretion of your clinic, shelter or veterinarian to perform if you consider it essential. Note that your state or county veterinary medical association may have issued guidance on the matter – for or against – but its opinion is not controlling.

NOTE: This document is a general guide to help you determine whether spay/neuter is allowed in your jurisdiction. It is not intended as legal advice and you should consult with a local attorney before making any final decisions.