



## ASK THE VET

### Why Spay or Neuter Your Pet

#### FEMALES (Spaying)

- (a) Prevents signs of estrus (“heat”)
- (b) Prevents blood stain on the carpet from the “heat” cycle.
- (c) Decreases surplus of puppies and kittens.
- (d) Decreases the chance of developing breast tumors later in life.
- (e) Decreases the chance of cystic ovaries and uterine infections later in life.
- (f) Anesthesia is a much lower risk at a younger age.
- (g) Prevents breast development if done before breeding age.
- (h) Females that are used for breeding should be spayed after that time to prevent disease conditions such as uterine infections and breast tumors later in life.

#### MALES (Neutering-Castration)

- (a) Decreases desire to roam the neighborhood.
- (b) Decreases aggression, pets become more affectionate
- (c) Decreases incidence of prostate cancer later in life.
- (d) Prevents odor of tom cat urine.
- (e) Helps control tom cat spraying and marking furniture and walls.

#### Your community will also benefit!

Unwanted animals are becoming a very real concern. Stray animals can easily become a public nuisance; soiling parks and streets, ruining shrubs, frightening children or elderly people, creating noise and other disturbances, causing automobile accidents, and sometimes even killing livestock or other pets. As a potential source of rabies and other diseases, they can become a public health hazard. The capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

### **Facts about Spaying/Neutering:**

- (a)** Spaying does NOT cause a pet to get fat or lazy. This comes from overfeeding and poor exercise.
- (b)** Personalities are NOT altered by spaying. Personalities do NOT fully develop until two years of age. Aggressiveness and viciousness are not the result of surgery. Personalities will ONLY get better!
- (c)** Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and anesthetic techniques, but there is ALWAYS some SMALL risk when an anesthetic is used.
- (d)** It is much easier on the pet to be spayed before going through a “heat” cycle, due to the smaller size of the reproductive tract.
- (e)** Best age to spay is 6-8 months of age for female pets, while neutering should normally be done between 6 and 8 months of age for male pets.

Surgery is performed painlessly while your pet is under general anesthesia. Post-surgical pain is minimal. Male pets often go home the same day surgery is performed. Female pets usually stay one night in the hospital.