



# Spaying and Neutering

## Should I Spay or Neuter My Pet?

This is a good question that you and only you can answer. This brochure will give you some pertinent information that we hope will make your decision easier.

A more relevant question you might want to ask yourself is: "Do I want to have a litter of puppies or kittens?"

### **WHY NOT HAVE JUST ONE LITTER OF PUPS OR KITTENS?**

The facts & figures listed on the back flap of this brochure are somewhat frightening. They are however, quite accurate. Every year thousands of unwanted dogs and cats are euthanized in the city of Wichita. The vast majority of these animals would make great family pets but the sad truth is there are just not enough homes for them all.

### **WHAT ARE THE FACTS AND MYTHS IN REGARDS TO SPAYING AND NEUTERING?**



Myth: Spaying and neutering is painful.

Fact: All surgeries are performed under general anesthetic. The animals usually feel like returning to normal activities within 24 hours. (Their incisions obviously have not had a chance to heal so keep them quiet for at least 7-10 days.)



Myth: My dog will be less protective after he is neutered.

Fact: Any changes resulting from the spay or neuter procedure are generally positive. Neutered male cats are less territorial, spray less often, roam less and fight much less. Neutered dogs are less likely to fight, roam, and mark their territory. Their loyalty and protectiveness towards their owners are unchanged.



Myth: Females are the only ones who need to be altered because males cannot give birth.

Fact: There is a famous saying, "It takes two to tango." While males cannot have puppies and kittens, they can impregnate several females every day.



Myth: Spaying and neutering causes animals to gain weight.

Fact: Lack of exercise and over feeding cause animals to gain weight. There is no evidence that animals gain weight simply due to being spayed or neutered.

## Some additional facts you need to know....

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- ♦ Neutering or spaying your pet shows the world that you are a responsible and caring pet owner.
- ♦ An altered pet is easier to train, less likely to fight with other animals, and has less desire to roam the streets where they could be hit by a car.
- ♦ Altered pets avoid health risks like pyometra (a life threatening disease in females), breast cancer, testicular cancer, and prostate disease.

### What are some reasons people give for breeding their dog or cat?



- ♦ One reason to breed your dog or cat is if they are a champion show pet and you would like to carry on the characteristics the individual animal possesses. However, if there were any undesirable characteristics like conformational defects, hip-dysplasia, or abnormal dental problems, then breeding would only carry on those *undesirable* traits. This can have the long-term affect of hurting a breed's reputation.
- ♦ Some people think allowing an animal to have at least one litter makes them a better pet. In reality, good obedience training, TLC, and good preventive medical care will do far more for making a well adjusted pet than any number of litters.
- ♦ Another common reason given to breed an animal is as an income-producing venture. This very common reason is often times shattered when a C-section is required or some other medical emergency arises due to the pregnancy. The cost of vaccines for the puppies or kittens, worming expense, additional food, let alone the late night hours spent nursing puppies and kittens leads to frustration, hard work and very little income.

*OK, I've heard all the reasons for and against breeding and I still want to breed my pet. Now what?*

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If you have made the decision to breed, we want to do all we can to make it a rewarding experience for you and your family. Please do all you can to educate yourself about the breeding process, the gestation period, nutrition, proper housing and care of the little ones. It is also a good idea to educate small children about the dangers of interfering with a pet that is nursing or caring for her offspring. The entire process can be rewarding with planning and a little homework. If you have questions ask one of our veterinarians.

### **PET OVERPOPULATION - THE FACTS AND FIGURES...**

- ♦ An estimated 52 million dogs and 57 million cats live with U.S. families.
- ♦ One female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years.
- ♦ One female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in 6 years.
- ♦ More than 12 million dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters each year (more than 20,000 in Wichita alone). Millions more are abandoned in rural and urban areas.
- ♦ As many as 25% of dogs entering shelters each year are purebreds.
- ♦ Approximately 61% of all dogs entering shelters are destroyed.
- ♦ Approximately 75% of all cats entering shelters are destroyed.