



Vets Love Pets!

Dr. Tammy Wilde & Associates



In this August edition of our monthly information sheet we are highlighting the benefits of why pet owners should spay or neuter their pets. Spayed and neutered pets have TWICE the average life expectancy of those pets who have not been spayed or neutered, partly due to the much lower chance of suffering from breast, uterine, prostate and testicular cancers. We hope the following information will give you further insight into some of the benefits of these procedures.

Spaying

Spaying is the term commonly used for an "ovariohysterectomy" which is the surgical removal of the entire reproductive system including the uterus and ovaries of a female cat or dog. This procedure is usually performed on a pet which is approximately 6 months old.

The benefits of spaying your pet:

- Female dogs run an increased risk of life-threatening medical problems later on in life if they are not spayed. For example, there is an alarmingly high risk of contracting uterine infections in older females that are not spayed. These infections are often life threatening and, in many cases, the treatment of choice is surgical removal of the uterus.
- Spaying a dog before her first heat greatly reduces the risk of mammary tumors (breast cancer). The chances of mammary tumors in female dogs increases significantly with each successive heat period until the age of two years.
- Spaying will help eliminate the problems associated with heat cycles such as the bloody discharge from the vulva which can persist for 2 - 3 weeks during each heat period and which can result in bloodstains around the house.
- Spaying will prevent pregnancy.
- You won't have to listen to the sounds of your female in heat, trying to get out and find a mate. In cats, the excessive vocalization and behavior associated with heats is also avoided if spaying is done.
- Prevents unwanted males from trying to seek out your female pet in heat.
- Spaying reduces the urge to roam making it less likely that you will lose your pet which, in turn, decreases the risk of them contracting a disease, getting in a fight, getting injured or stolen.
- If not mated, female dogs may experience "false pregnancy", a condition wherein they behave as if pregnant, complete with whining, restlessness and lactation.



Neutering

Neutering is the surgical sterilization of a male animal by removing the testicles, and is also known as castration. It is generally best to wait until he is about 6 months old before being neutered as soon after they will become sexually mature and this brings the risk of territorial marking.

The benefits of neutering your pet:

- Neutering reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis (inflammation of the prostate).
- Reduces the risk of hormone related diseases such as perianal adenoma (tumor on the anal gland).
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common cancer in intact dogs.
- Removes sexual urges which usually decreases roaming behaviors. This makes it less likely that you will lose your pet, which reduces the chances of them contracting a disease, getting in a fight, getting injured or stolen.
- Reduces certain types of aggression, the urge to fight, excessive barking, howling and other unwanted behavior.
- In cats neutering stops or reduces marking behavior (territorial spraying of urine)



Dispelling the Myths

Having your pet spayed or neutered will not make them gain weight or become lazy. Obesity in pets is usually the result of overeating and a lack of exercise.

Neutering does not cause a change in guarding instincts, intelligence, playfulness or affection.



If you are considering having your pet spayed or neutered, our veterinary health care team are on hand to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding the procedure and after care.



LEO

24 July - 23 August

DOGS: Leos are the king of the dogs, standing tall - the Leo dog is confident, fearless and proud. They tend to make excellent police dogs. Dogs praised for their bravery or pampered by royalty are more often than not born under the sign of Leo. Your Leo dog doesn't like to be ignored as they love to be the centre of attention. Leo dogs are fiercely loyal and would rather die protecting you than allow you to come to any harm. They make excellent guard dogs however they may be scared of cats.

CATS: Cats born under their natural feline sign of Leo are the most fortunate of creatures. They will experience good health and be extremely lucky - nine lives are just the start. They may be born into affluent homes. Most Leo cats will have long hair but the naturally long haired varieties, such as Persians, will be exceptionally beautiful and maybe even show cats. They are extrovert and gregarious yet your Leo cat is not arrogant: they are loyal, steadfast and true.



PROBLEMS WITH STAINS & ODORS?

If you have unwanted stains and odors on your carpet from urine, vomit, feces and blood then we have the product for you.

Natural Chemistry Stain & Odor Eliminator permanently removes stains and odors by using natural enzymes and co-enzymes to break down stains and odors entirely, making your home a healthier place to be.

It dissolves organic matter from pet accidents, blood, food and beverages quickly and easily. The biodegradable formula will not harm or discolor carpets or upholstery, or irritate sensitive skin, eyes or noses. Better yet, it's easy to use and requires no rinsing!

FIRST AID ESSENTIALS

PORCUPINE QUILLS



If there are only a few quills and none are in the mouth, try to remove them gently. Grasp the base of the quill with needle-nosed pliers, hold the skin flat against the body and pull steadily out. This hurts! If the animal becomes stressed or struggles, do not proceed further. The quills will just break off and become more difficult to remove. If there are several quills or they are in the mouth, seek assistance from your veterinarian. Sedation or anesthesia will be required to do a thorough and humane job of quill removal. Quills should be removed as soon as possible after they are embedded. Delaying removal can result in quills migrating under the skin where they may be missed, or become more difficult to remove. Do NOT cut the quills short - this does not assist in removing them. Quills in the skin are painful, and should be removed early for the sake of your pet.



PET SUNSCREEN FOR YOUR DOGS

Does your dog have light colored skin or a pink nose? Then they need dog sunscreen because any time your dog is exposed to more than 10 minutes of sun, they could be at risk of sunburn. Even though dogs have hair coats, pale-skinned dogs and those with short hair coats can be more exposed to the sun.

Pet sunscreen is formulated specifically for a dog's skin. It's non-oily, non-irritating, water soluble and contains no silicone. So please don't let your dog get sun burnt this summer when they are out for their daily walks.



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