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In this May edition of our monthly newsletter we are again 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.

SPAY

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 a high risk of contracting uterine infections in older females that are not spayed that are often life threatening.
- 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.
- 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.




NEUTER

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 reduce marking behavior (territorial spraying of urine)

 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.

Dispelling the Myth

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.



Laughter is the Best Medicine

A local business was looking for office help.

They put a sign in the window saying: "HELP WANTED. Must be able to type, Must be good with a computer and must be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer."

A short time afterwards, a dog trotted up to the window, saw the sign and went inside. He looked at the receptionist and wagged his tail, then walked over to the sign, looked at it and whined. Getting the idea, the receptionist got the office manager.

The office manager looked at the dog and was surprised, to say the least. However, the dog looked determined, so he led him into the office. Inside, the dog jumped up on the chair and stared at the manager.

The manager said, "I can't hire you. The sign says you have to be able to type."

The dog jumped down, went to the typewriter and proceeded to type out a perfect letter. He took out the page and trotted over to the manager and gave it to him, then jumped back on the chair.

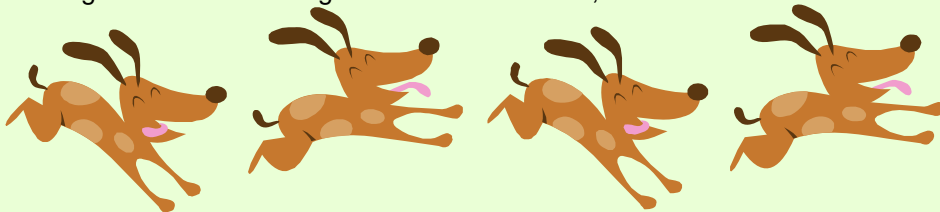
The manager was stunned, but then told the dog, "The sign says you have to be good with a computer." The dog jumped down again and went to the computer.

The dog proceeded to demonstrate his expertise with various programs and produced a sample spreadsheet and database and presented them to the manager.

By this time the manager was totally dumbfounded! He looked at the dog and said, "I realize that you are a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job." The dog jumped down and went to a copy of the sign and put his paw on the part about being an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The manager said, "Yes, but the sign also says that you have to be bilingual."

The dog looked at him straight in the face and said, "Meow."



taurus

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DOGS: The Taurean dog is loyal, faithful and easy to train. They make the perfect guide dogs and are great with children. They are big softies and everyone adores their kind nature. They are strong when young but can be prone to gaining weight with age. It is rare to find an older Taurean dog that's not "chubby". Their first love is food but a close second is music. If you want to keep your Taurean dog happy, play them some Beethoven - they'll sit and listen for hours and may even howl along. They are delightfully cuddly and playful and their antics will have you in stitches.



CATS: Many Taurean cats have big beautiful eyes - a gift from their ruling planet Venus. When young they could easily win at cat shows. One word of caution ... if you feed a special treat such as fresh fish to a Taurean cat they might refuse to eat anything else. The Venus ruled Taurean feline takes a sensuous delight in luxury and will be forever on your lap wanting lots of pampering. They do not roam far from home. They are very much the homebody and are less inclined to travel - they like luxury too much to roam. They prefer to sit on the porch and watch other animals and birds entertain them.