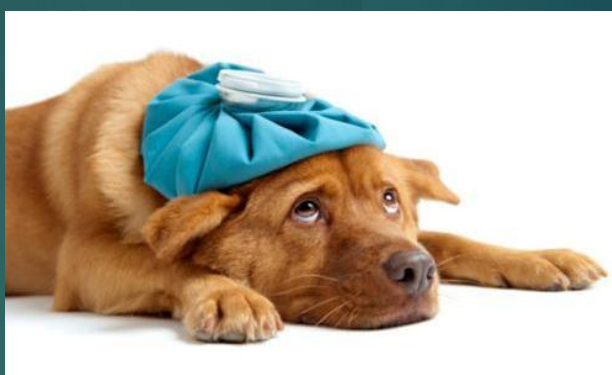


SPAY/NEUTER MYTHS BUSTED !!

Myth: Spay/Neuter does not provide health benefits.

Fact: Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer and reduces chances of prostatic enlargement.



Myth: In heat females aren't a nuisance.

Fact: Your spayed female won't go into heat.

While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently-sometimes all over the house! Female dogs do experience vaginal bleeding during their heat cycles. During which time, they can create quite the mess in your home.

Myth: I'll just keep my pet indoors.

Fact: A male dog can detect an in heat female within a 2 mile radius and may be willing to go to extremes to reach her. That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house. And once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

Myth: Spaying or neutering will make my pet fat.

Fact: Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds-not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

Myth: Pet overpopulation is not a problem in my community.

Fact: Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering. The pet overpopulation is not only a huge financial burden to many communities. Stray animals can also prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and injure children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of animals on the streets. average spay or neuter.



Myth: Spaying or Neutering my pet is expensive

Fact: It is highly cost-effective.

The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray! The cost of treatment for uterine infection or cancer is often 5-10 times the cost of the

Myth: My pet needs to have a litter for my children to learn about the miracle of birth.

Fact: Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for your children-especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are tons of books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.

MYTH: But my pet is a purebred.

FACT: So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breed and purebred. About half of all animals entering shelters are euthanized.

MYTH: I want my dog to be protective.

FACT: It is a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

MYTH: I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.

FACT: Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered. Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.

MYTH: It's better to have one litter before spaying a female pet.

FACT: Every litter counts.

Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age. Check with your veterinarian about the appropriate time for these procedures.

MYTH: I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.

FACT: You may find homes for your pet's puppies and kittens. But you can only control what decisions you make with your own pet, not the decisions other people make with theirs. Your pet's puppies and kittens, or their puppies or kittens, could end up in an animal shelter, as one of the many homeless pets in every community competing for a home. Will they be one of the lucky ones?



References:

1. WebMD Veterinary Reference from ASPCA
2. www.humanesociety.org/