

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF KENT COUNTY

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Why should I spay or neuter my pet?

Sterilizing your companion animal is one of the most positive things you can do as a pet owner. Every year, hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats are killed due to the overpopulation problem. Spaying or neutering is the key to overcome this tragedy. Dogs and cats have an improved chance of longevity, good health, and contentment if they are spayed or neutered.

Health benefits

Female Dogs and Cats: Spaying removes the ovaries and uterus, eliminating the possibility of ovarian and uterine infections or cancer. One of the most common health problems in an unspayed female dog or cats is the presence of mammary gland tumors. Every heat cycle increases the risk of breast cancer. Spayed dogs and cats avoid the dangers of the risk of giving birth and the risk of eclampsia when nursing.

By avoiding the estrus cycle, the reason a cat or dog will go “into heat”, roaming males will not be attracted, which may result in fights or the spread of disease. The female will also lack the urge to roam, thus helping to prevent the dangers of injury, harm from cruelty, disease, or theft.

Male dogs: Neutering removes the testicles, thus preventing testicular tumors and cancer. Over 60% of unneutered male dogs over the age of five years are affected by enlargement of the prostate gland. This may cause prostate and urinary tract infections. As this enlargement is caused by testosterone, male hormone produced by the testicles, neutering is a preventative to this problem. Also resulting from testosterone output are tumors of the perianal glands, the third most common tumor in male dogs.

By eliminating the sexual drive that causes a dog to roam or bolt from your home or yard, neutering helps prevent injuries and diseases associated with roaming. The risk of getting hit by a car, in a fight with another dog, harmed by an act of cruelty or infected with a transmittable disease from another animal is greatly reduced with neutering.

Male cats: The urge to mate greatly increases the chance that a cat will slip out of the house and meet with dangers outdoors, ranging from transmittable diseases like Feline Leukemia or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, to poisons or injuries from fights. The most serious cat fights occur between unneutered males, often resulting in abscesses.

Behavioral Benefits

Female dogs and cats: Spaying prevents the stress, irritability and aggressiveness that some dogs and cats exhibit while in heat. A spayed cat or dog is less likely to urine mark.

Male dogs: Neutering reduces or eliminates sexual mounting behavior towards other animals and humans. A neutered dog is less likely to urine-mark. Aggressiveness towards other male dogs and humans is markedly lower among neutered dogs and a neutered dog is easier to train.

Male cats: Most unneutered male cats will frequently spray urine to mark territory. Only one in ten neutered male cats sprays, often times resulting from a physical problem or the result of stress from change in environment or life style.

Spaying and neutering will not make your pet lazy and overweight. These traits are result of poor diet and a lack of exercise. Freed of the urge to breed, dogs and cats tend to be calmer and more content, making a much better companion.

There are not enough homes for all the animals indiscriminately bred or turned into the shelters. At any given time, there are even purebred dogs and cats being relinquished. The Humane Society of Kent County estimates that 30% of dogs brought in are purebred.

Please spay or neuter your companion animal.