

Moyock Animal Hospital, Inc.  
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## SHOULD I HAVE MY PET "FIXED"??

One of the many decisions we all must make as pet owners is having our pet SPAYED (females) or NEUTERED (males). This surgical procedure is usually performed at 5 to 6 months of age but can be done at any stage of your pet's life. The ONLY reason not to spay or neuter your pet is if he or she will be used as an active breeding animal.

We all think about "fixing" our pets in order to decrease the ever-increasing population of unwanted and homeless puppies and kittens...however, there are MANY diseases that affect dogs and cats that are NOT spayed or neutered. Having the surgery helps to prevent these problems.



NON-SPAYED FEMALES can suffer from mammary (breast) cancer, cancer of the ovaries and cancer of the uterus. A LIFE-THREATENING condition of non-spayed females is "PYOMETRA" or a severe infection of the uterus. This condition usually necessitates immediate, emergency surgery in order to save the patient's



life!

NON-NEUTERED MALES can suffer from testicular cancer and infection of the testicles. The incidence of Prostate cancer and infection of the Prostate is MUCH higher in males that have not been neutered. Just as in human patients, these infections and cancers are very serious and can endanger your pet's life.

SPAYING or NEUTERING can also help to discourage BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS, especially if performed at a young age. Messy heat cycles and attitude problems associated with heat cycles in females can be avoided by spaying. In males...aggression, territory marking (by urination), fighting and wandering off looking for "girlfriends" can be decreased or even avoided all together by neutering.



Both SPAYING and NEUTERING are surgical procedures that are performed with your pet under general anesthesia (the patient is sound asleep through the entire



procedure...just like human patients). Presurgical bloodwork (to check the patient's liver and kidney function, blood level, and clotting ability) and Post-surgical pain management are options that you may choose at the time of surgery if you wish. Other procedures, vaccinations, or additional tests can be performed at the same time if needed...each patient is unique and we can discuss any special considerations with you when the time approaches!!!

Please remember, this information sheet is intended as a general guideline...we will be happy to answer any specific questions you may have concerning your pet as an individual!



Thank you so much for allowing us to care for your special family member!!

Dr. Michael "Tracy" Eure, Tiffany Boomer (L.V.T.) and Staff  
Moyock Animal Hospital, Inc.