



# July Newsletter

"You and Your Pets Are Part Of Our Family"

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## In This Issue: Spay and Neuter- Why is it so important?

Did you know that 11,500 animals are euthanized by the SPCA here in BC every year, with 2500 in the Abbotsford area, when they are unable to find these unwanted pets new homes. Spaying and neutering could decrease the needless killing of unwanted pets.

But what's in it for you and your pet specifically?

**You will add up to 3 years to your dogs life and up to 5 years to your cats!**

There are many benefits to spaying or neutering your pet.

### DOGS

**Female dogs** come into heat on average 2 times per year. Heat cycles last about 4 weeks, and can be uncomfortable, messy and even dangerous to your dog. Leaving her un-spayed increases her chances of getting uterine infections (pyometriosis). By spaying her before her first heat you greatly reduce her chances of getting mammary cancer. Dogs in heat must be kept confined, and intact male can sense a female in heat from miles away. During these hormonal times they may become more aggressive.

**Male Dogs** will be easier to train as they will be less distracted by scenting for females and marking territory. Un-neutered males are harder to house train for the same reason. Their testosterone can make hormonal driven behaviors hard to manage and they are more prone to aggressive issues. They are at risk for prostate and anal cancers and infections.

### CATS

**Female cats** have about 2-4 cycles every year, each lasting 15-21 days. Many female cats will exhibit unusual behaviour such as rolling on the floor, hiding, demanding attention, being very vocal and can be very difficult to live with.

**Male Cats** Are also at risk for anal infections and cancers as well as prostate cancers. They are more prone to wander, mark territory (inside and out) and get into fights with other cats and even wildlife. These fights can lead to serious infections and abscesses. A neutered cat is more likely to stay close to home and less likely to get into a fight or hit by a car.

**Did you know that about 80% of all dogs and cats hit by cars are intact males!!!**



**Spaying or neutering will not make your pet fat and lazy!. A proper diet and exercise will maintain a healthy pet.**

One of the most common misconceptions, and the one that needs to be addressed, is the "miracle of birth". Many families believe in allowing a female to have *just one litter* to allow their children to experience this.

Pregnancy and whelping comes with very high risks and is not something an average pet owner can deal with; the death rate of puppies and kittens born to in-experienced pet owners is high. The babies that result from these "miracle" litters add to the millions of pets produced in, and many will end up abused and neglected. Many also look at breeding as an easy way to make quick money. There are pre-whelping exams and tests, vet care, feeding and deworming, dewclaw/tail care, and what about any emergency care is she can't deliver on her own? A properly raised litter costs a lot of money..usually much more that you can hope to make from your litter of babies.

### Complimentary Services at the time of your Spay /Neuter Surgery

- \*Permanent tattoo for identification
- \*Nail trim
- \*Skin and coat evaluation, including a check for fleas.
- \*Evaluation of their ear canals
- \*Examination of the mouth or teeth
- \*Puppies only: Preliminary Hip Dysplasia screen, test for Ortalani sign

