Spaying, Neutering, & Non Surgical Options

T' Fisher
Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee
Where do they all come from?

Oops Offspring

Desire to breed

She escaped

I didn't realize she was in heat

I want my children to see the miracle of birth

The vet won't do it till they are 6 months old

She'll get fat

I didn't think she could get pregnant this young

Too expensive

Inconvenience
Pop Quiz
Dog Fertility

First heat cycle = ?
Dog Fertility

- First heat cycle = 6-18 months
Dog Fertility

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- How often do they go in heat?
Dog Fertility

- First heat cycle = 6-18 months
- How often do they go in heat? = every 6-7 months
Dog Fertility

- First heat cycle = 6-18 months
- How often does a dog go in heat? = every 6-7 months
- How long is a dog pregnant?
Dog Fertility

- First heat cycle = 6-18 months
- How often does a dog go in heat? = every 6-7 months
- How long is a dog pregnant? = 63-65 days
Dog Fertility

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- How often do they go in heat? = every 6-7 months
- How long is a dog pregnant? = 63-65 days
- What is the average litter size?
Dog Fertility

- First heat cycle = 6-18 months
- How often do they go in heat? = every 6-7 months
- How long is a dog pregnant? = 63-65 days
- What is the average litter size? = 2-20 puppies
Cat Fertility

- When do cats go into heat?
Cat Fertility

- When do cats go into heat? = As early as 5 months
Cat Fertility

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- Who often do cats go into heat?
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- Who often do cats go into heat?
  = Seasonally polyestrous; induced ovulation
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Cat Fertility

- When do cats go into heat? = As early as 5 months
- Who often do cats go into heat? Seasonally polyestrous; induced ovulation
- How long is a cat pregnant? = 63-65 days
- What is the average litter size? = 4-5 kittens
Truth vs Myth
Surgery is Too Painful - Myth

- Performed under general anesthesia
- Some discomfort following surgery
- Pain medications may be prescribed
- Prevent licking
- Pets will need to be kept in a dry place and have limited exercise, following surgery
At Least One Heat Cycle - Myth

- It is actually better for her to be spayed before her first cycle because this will reduce the incidence for mammary tumors.
Pet Will Get Fat & Lazy- Truth/Myth

- Slower metabolism
- Reduce the amount of food accordingly
- When sterilized at a young age, most animals will continue to stay active
Dog Will No Longer Protect Me - Myth

- Dogs will continue to protect their property. The only behaviors that will change are those controlled by the sex hormones.
- Recommended to neuter or spay an aggressive animal, in an attempt to reduce the aggressive behavior.
- May not stop the aggressive behavior because aggressive tendencies may be caused by environment or lack of training rather than sexual reasons.
It’s Too Expensive - Myth

- The fees vary from one area to another. Check with local veterinarians.
- This is a one-time fee and it is dependent on the size of the animal.
- In many communities, you will receive a reduced price for your pet’s license if it is sterilized.
- Check with your local animal shelter or humane society for programs for low-income families.
- 1-866-907-SPAY in TN
Sterilization vs Contraception

- **Contraception:**
  1. prevention of fertilization
  2. means of preventing pregnancy

- **Sterilization:** make infertile permanently
Surgical Sterilization
What Does It Mean To “Spay” Your Pet?

- To surgically remove a female animal's ovaries and adjacent parts of the uterus
- Ovariohysterectomy
Limitations of surgical sterilization

- Requires anesthesia
- Invasive, has some morbidity and mortality
- Expensive and technical
- Not available in much of the world
Spay - Advantages

- Will not have a heat cycle
- What do you know about heat cycles?
  - **DOGS:**
    - the heat cycle can begin as early as 5 months, avg. 6-9 months
    - stay in heat for ~21 days
    - twice a year
  - **CATS:**
    - can come in heat as early as 4.5 months
    - will stay in heat ~ 1 week
    - polyestrus
Spay - Advantages

- Will not be able to reproduce
- Will not get ovarian or uterine cancer
- Will not have dangerous uterine infections
- Lessens tendency to fight with other animals
What Does It Mean To “Neuter” Your Pet?

- To remove the testicles or ovaries of an animal
Neuter - Advantages

- Will not be able to reproduce
Neuter - Advantages

- Will not be able to reproduce
- Will not mark territory by urinating or spraying
Neuter - Advantages

- Will not be able to reproduce
- Will not mark territory by urinating or spraying
- Will reduce aggressive behaviors that stem from sexual tendencies
Neuter - Advantages

- Will be less likely to roam and get into dog and cat fights
- Will not get testicular tumors and reduces incidence of prostate inflammation
- Will reduce inappropriate behavior like “humping” on humans
Spay Neuter – What Age?

- 2.2 lbs
- As young as 8 weeks
- Puppies and kittens recover quicker from surgery than adults
- Sterilizing puppies and kittens before 4 months of age will assure that they will not have a first heat cycle
Early-Age Spay/Neuter of Dogs & Cats

- The AVMA supports the concept of early (prepubertal, 8 to 16 weeks of age) spay/neuter in dogs and cats in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted animals of these species.

- Just as for other veterinary medical and surgical procedures, veterinarians should use their best medical judgment in deciding at what age spay/neuter should be performed on individual animals.
Spay Neuter – Too Old?

- Pets are rarely too old for sterilization
- Extra precautions will be taken with older dogs and pain meds are available.
Nearly all of veterinarians surveyed (96%) agreed that “unplanned litters contribute significantly to the number of unwanted pets in our community.”

Of vets surveyed, 61% reported they participate regularly in community programs to control pet population.

More than half of the vets surveyed, however, “feel pressured to provide more time or low-cost services than [they] are able.”
Non-Surgical Methods
Considerations for nonsurgical contraception

- Delivery and targeting
- Time to contraception
- Duration of contraception
- Hormone production
- Effectiveness
- Sex and age
- Safety
- Identification
- Cost
Priorities for Non-Surgical Products for Pet Population Control

- Safe for animals, humans, and environment
- Permanent
- Long-term 3+ years
- Single injection or treatment
- Males and females
- Dogs and cats
- Known effects on behavior
- Affordable
Suprelorin®

- GnRH agonist
- 2005
- Delivered by implant (microchip size)
- 6 month and 12 month doses available
- Can be used for any age and can be repeated
Suprelorin

- Male dogs
- Implant subcutaneous
- Lasts 6 and 12 months
- Suppresses testosterone and therefore fertility, thus “medical castration”
- Not approved in the US; only in EU, Australia, New Zealand
GonaCon

- Injectable approved by the EPA for use in deer
- Levy studies at FL. Has been shown (in preliminary research) to be effective in approximately 75% of female cats for 2 and ½ years to date.
- Assumed to not be permanent and is not effective in 100% of animals, it is not ideal.
Zeuterin

- Approved by the FDA for use in male dogs from 3 to 10 months of age
- Sedation recommended to prevent movement
- Volume injected into each testicle based on testicle size
Zeuterin

- The product is administered by a single injection to each testicle with a fine-gauge needle.
- It works by causing atrophy of the testicles.
Zeuterin - Advantages

- Low cost, single application, permanent and irreversible
- Only current available FDA approved non-surgical method for sterilizing male dogs in the US
- Only light sedation required
- Less recovery time
- Reduces testosterone and prostate size
Zeuterin- Advantages

- No special equipment
- No electricity required
- Can Sterilize 200 Dogs in One Day
Hooters For Neuters
Real Men Neuter Their Best Friends

THE BIG FIX MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC WILL BE AT
Hooters Restaurant
7157 So. State Street
September 19 & 20
(Animal intake begins at 8:00 am)

Guys (...and girls) get your pet fixed at a super discount plus FREE WINGS and chances for other cool prizes like...
• Utah Grizzlies Prize Packs
• The Bowlingual (canine-to-human translator) from Takara-The Newest Rage!
• Signed Hooters Calendars, T-shirts, & more!

For prices or general info call
Zeuterin - Disadvantages

- Reduced testosterone production by 41-52%
- Pre-pubescent males never become fertile, but sterility may take up to 30 days in post-pubescent males.
Zeuterin: Underway

- Long term health benefits
- Male cats

- Plans
  - Less than 3 months
  - Other species: kangaroos, monkeys, rabbits
Zeuterin Challenges

- Age
- Size
- Training veterinarians on injection procedure
No other disease or condition of companion animals takes as many lives as euthanasia. In fact, no other disease comes close.

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Questions?
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