



## **Spay/Neuter Myths**

### **1. MY DOG WILL GET FAT AND LAZY.**

With the right amount of food and exercise, your pet will not become overweight following spay/neuter. He/She will require fewer calories to maintain proper weight and should be fed less - he will be less expensive to feed! A dog's laziness or inactivity depends on his personality and temperament.

### **2. IT'S IMPORTANT TO LET A FEMALE HAVE ONE HEAT PERIOD.**

There is no proven benefit in allowing one heat cycle. One heat cycle is one extra risk of unwanted pregnancy. Females will generally be temperamental during this period, will drip on your floor, and will attract a yard-full of waiting suitors. Spaying prior to the first heat cycle will prevent 98% of all breast (mammary) cancers.

### **3. SPAYING IS DANGEROUS.**

When done by a licensed veterinarian, elective spay/neuter surgery is actually less dangerous than the stress and danger of complications possible in pregnancy.

### **4. STERILIZED PETS AREN'T GOOD WATCH DOGS.**

Animals that are spay or neutered are generally more content with home and family and are more devoted. The "bad" watchdog would be "bad" sterilized or not.

### **5. BUT MY PET IS PUREBRED / UNUSUAL / SPECIAL**

If you think your pet should be bred for any of these reasons, visit your local shelters. See the many special, beautiful pets and the large number of purebreds there. Approximately 70% of these pets will be euthanized. There aren't enough homes for them all. For every puppy and kitten you place, another goes homeless.

### **6. BUT MY DOG IS A MALE!**

While a female dog can have two litters per year, a male could sire that many in an afternoon! He can sense a female in season within a 2 ½ mile radius and will do anything to get to her. Neutered males are far less quarrelsome and more content to stay home with you.

### **7. I WOULDN'T DO IT TO MYSELF; I COULDN'T DO IT TO MY DOG!**

Animals conceive and produce litters purely on biological instinct, an instinct which lasts for that moment alone. They don't feel deprived by sterilization, but an unsterilized dog will feel extreme frustration when in season or when they sense an in-season female is nearby. This frustration often leads to behavior problems and aggression.