

OPINION: Why Its Important to Spay/Neuter Your Pets

If you own a pet, dog or cat, you know how precious and family-like they are. They deserve the food, water and shelter you can provide for them but they also deserve the proper health care like any family member should receive. Get routine shots and check-ups are important, but another procedure that is important to a pets life is getting them spayed/neutered.

Getting your pets spayed and neutered is a procedure that needs to be preformed on all dogs and cats to help prevent several medical conditions as well as just to improve their quality of life over all.

There are several medical benefits to getting your pets spayed/neutered. According to Animal Health Foundation, getting your female pets spayed, reduces the risk of mammary cancer, ovarian and uterine cancer and pyometra. And in males, neutering reduces the risk of “prostatic hypertrophy and infections, as well as testicular cancer and certain types of hernias.” The decreased risk of all these medical issues, means your pet is more likely to live a longer and healthier life.

Another reason to spay your animals, specifically females is because it allows them to avoid going into heat, which is the term used to describe when a female dog is in her peak time to get pregnant. Heat can cause the female to have very weird behavior like howling and urinating. On the other end of that, male dogs who have not been neutered can sense a female in heat which can make the male start to act weird. According to the Animal Foundation, “an intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! That includes digging his way under fences or dashing out the door to escape from the house.” All things that can result in injury to the dog.

Although this may not be an issue for everyone, spaying and neutering can help a dog behave. Instead of urinating all over the house to mark their territory, a spayed/neutered dog will not do that and also be less aggressive.

Some pet owners may argue that the cost of these procedures are just too expensive, but keep in mind it is highly cost-effective. This means the cost of the surgery to get your pet spayed/neutered is a lot less than the medical bills that could come to be if they were to get any of the medical issues that come with not getting spayed or neutered.

Getting your pets the proper procedures can also be very beneficial for your community. It can help with over population of pets and decrease the number of strays on the streets. These strays often can carry and spread diseases, which can also put your own pets in danger.

According to the Animal Foundation, many cities have started passing laws that require for pets to be spayed or neutered. Only breeders with the right permits can really avoid these laws.

If you love your pet as much as you say you do, then you will do the right thing. There are so many benefits to it for you and your pet. Give your pet the long, healthy, and happy life they deserve by taking them to your local vet clinic and get them properly spayed or neutered.