



SPAYING OR NEUTERING YOUR DOG

SPAYING a female dog eliminates the heat cycle. Dogs are usually in heat for about 21 days twice a year. Spaying your female dog stops unwelcome visitors and unexpected litters of puppies. Male dogs can be drawn from quite a distance by the scent of a female in heat, even when she is kept indoors.

Spaying is a surgical procedure to remove both ovaries and the entire uterus. It eliminates the site of common and serious diseases, such as pyometra (a life threatening infection) and cancer. Almost half of unspayed dogs develop breast tumors. Virtually none do if they are spayed before their first heat, and the chances are reduced if they are spayed before the fifth heat cycle. Spaying is a reliable way to significantly reduce the risk that your dog will develop tumors.

NEUTERING a male dog reduces the urge to roam in search of a mate which in turn reduces the risk of fights, injury, poisoning, or traffic accidents. Neutering reduces the risk of injuries and abscesses due to fighting. It stops the mating drive by removing the organs (testicles) that produce sex hormones. It may take a month for hormones already in the bloodstream to disappear. About 60% of older, unneutered dogs suffer from enlarged prostate glands. Neutering lowers the risk of this painful disorder, as well as reducing the risk of prostate cancer.

A BIGGER REASON TO SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET

Every hour, 2,000 – 3,500 puppies and kittens are born in the U.S. That amounts to more than 30 million a year. Only one in ten of these animals find a permanent home. Only 20 to 25% of animals brought to public pounds and private shelters are adopted. While there is an increasing number of no-kill shelters, thousands of animals are still routinely destroyed.

DOGGY MATH

If a dog has four offspring every year (a conservative number) and two are female, and each of these also has four offspring every year, two of which are female, by the seventh year, the original mother will have 4,732 descendants!

Pilchuck encourages you to give your pet a happier, healthier, and longer life through spaying or neutering.