



Animal Clinic of Chardon

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Did you know?

Many hamsters only blink one eye at a time.

Ferrets are currently the third most popular pet in the US. There are an estimated eight to ten million ferrets in the United States being kept as pets.

Americans own more than 60 million pet birds.

A good reason to spay or neuter pet rabbits is because it will make them live longer. Rabbits that have been sterilized can live 10 to 12 years — up to four years longer than those that haven't undergone the procedure. Females who haven't been spayed have an 80 percent higher chance of getting reproductive cancer.

Rats have highly tuned senses and can become overwhelmed by the electromagnetic fields generated by electronic devices. Until a new rat is well acclimated to your home and shows no signs of agitation or irritation when exposed to electronic devices, you should keep her habitat in an area of the house with a minimum of electronic activity.

Special Deals!

10 Reasons to Spay & Neuter your Pet

1. Breast tumors

Over 25% of non-spayed female dogs will develop breast or mammary tumors! Spaying pets protects against them, depending on the timing. The risk of a dog having mammary tumors is 0.05% if a female is spayed before the first heat. Then it shoots up to an 8% risk after their first cycle, and 26% after their second heat. If a dog is spayed after 2 years of age, then there is no more protection. However, it will protect her against other conditions, including pyometra (see below).

2. Pyometra

Pyometra is a serious condition where the uterus fills with pus. It is common in non-spayed dogs, and unusual in cats. In turn, pyometra can affect many organs, which can make a pet very sick or even kill her. One of the organs that classically gets damaged is the kidney. It can get worse: a "mature" pyometra can rupture or break. This leads to having pus all over the belly (septic peritonitis). Such patients can still be helped with more intensive care.



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3. Unplanned pregnancies

Letting a non-spayed cat or dog roam is similar to gambling. Chances are, our little female friend will meet Mr. Not-Right.

Now... not only do you have to deal with the pregnancy, but in 2 months, you will need to make sure that the delivery goes well. Then you will have to keep the 1, 2, 3... or 10 babies or find them a new home. If mom can't nurse, guess who needs to get up every 2 hours to bottle-feed the babies?

4. Behavior

Unneutered pets have all kinds of behavioral problems. In male dogs, the most common behavior is an aggressive temper. Of course, there are many intact pets who are perfectly sweet. Neutering, when done early in life, can reduce aggressiveness and improve behavior overall. For example, it decreases the always-embarrassing "mounting" behavior in dogs.

5. Heat cycles

As a general rule, most females have their first heat cycle around 6

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months of age. A heat cycle causes mood swings (doggie PMS?), swollen nipples, attraction of males, a swollen vulva and a bloody discharge. It can be quite stressful for everybody involved.

6. Marking

Few things smell worse than intact male cat urine. Some people make their indoor cat an outdoor cat when they can't tolerate the smell anymore. This increases the risk of being hit by a car. Neutering, when done early enough in life, virtually eliminates the odor of male cat urine and should prevent marking in male dogs.



7. Tumors of the uterus

Likewise, tumors of the uterus are not common, but spaying eliminates this risk. Here at the Animal Clinic of Chardon, we remove the ovaries and the uterus (ovario-hysterectomy).

8. False pregnancy

False pregnancy is a strange and stressful condition where a pet is convinced that she's pregnant... when she's not! Females show nesting behavior (i.e. they literally make a nest for her imaginary offspring), their belly gets bigger, and they produce milk. Spaying can eliminate the possibility of this condition.

9. Roaming and getting in trouble

Pets are rarely taught how to cross the street safely. So as they roam, searching for a partner or looking for trouble, they might get hit by a car. In fact, many pets treated for a fracture are intact. Neutering decreases the urge to roam or run away from home. In addition, neutering decreases the risk of getting into fights, notoriously in tom cats. They commonly get abscesses from these fights.

10. Genetics

There are countless genetic diseases, such as hip dysplasia, heart disease and eye conditions. Spaying a female who carries the bad genes is the easiest way to prevent babies with the same problems. Only through reasoned breeding can a breed improve over time.

There are numerous other reasons why spaying & neutering are important for the health of our pets. Please speak to one of our veterinarians to learn more.

Do you have our App?



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