

The Greater Cartersville-Bartow Veterinary Group

WHY SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR SPECIAL PET?

Problems for Intact Pets

Spaying and neutering, in addition to controlling the pet population, has many medical benefits:

- ✓ The average lifespan of a spayed or neutered pet is 40% longer than an unaltered one
- ✓ Un-spayed females may develop breast cancer or uterine infections by 8-10 years of age
- ✓ Spaying a female before first heat almost eliminates her chance of developing breast cancer

Problems for Owners of Intact Pets

Problems associated with intact pets include:

- ✓ Un-spayed female cats are in heat frequently, which is noisy and troublesome
- ✓ Un-spayed female dogs experience messy heat cycles two to three times a year
- ✓ Un-neutered male cats tend to mark their territory by spraying urine
- ✓ Un-neutered male dogs are at risk of testicular tumors, prostate disease, & peri-anal tumors

Intact pets tend to be territorial and wander, leading to automobile injuries, fight wounds, and exposure to contagious disease. Neutering can help control or eliminate associated behavioral problems such as aggressiveness, urinating in the house, and running away from home.

The Solution: Spay or Neuter

Spaying or neutering your pet is a safe, routine procedure, generally performed at 6 months of age. Prior to surgery, all pets will receive a pre-anesthetic physical exam. We require surgical blood screening, which helps us detect many potential problems and increases anesthetic safety for your pet.

We also require postoperative pain medication, ensuring a comfortable, speedy recovery for your pet. The surgical procedure is performed under general anesthesia, so your pet sleeps painlessly throughout. Anesthesia choices used in our hospitals are the same as those used in human medicine. No pet should be taken home the same day of surgery, as monitoring, rest, and re-examination are important.

When Your Pet Has Surgery

These surgical procedures can be scheduled Monday – Friday. Here are some points to remember:

- Please call 24 hours in advance to make your appointment
- Plan to drop your pet off at the hospital between 7:30 and 9:00 AM
- Withhold food and water for 8 hours prior to surgery
- Your pet will stay with us overnight and be discharged the following day

Most pets will go home with pain medications to be given for the first four days following surgery and some may also receive antibiotics. The doctor will make these decisions and advise you upon discharge.

REMEMBER: Spaying or neutering your pet will help it to lead a healthier, happier, longer life and you will have done your part to reduce the pet overpopulation problem!