

## WHETHER TO SPAY/ NEUTER- THE BEHAVIOUR & HEALTH BENEFITS

Why spay our female cats and neuter our male cats?

What advantages are there for the pet who is spayed/neutered instead of being left intact?

What are the disadvantages?

What's in it for the family who will live with that pet?

### FAMILY VS CAREER

An intact pet tends to expend a lot of attention and energy in the direction of reproduction. A spayed/neutered pet however, retains the full character of its male or female identity but has more attention and energy to devote to other things. Most pets have careers as companions to humans, and it is through this labour of love they enrich and even extend our lives.

### OWNER VS. BREEDER

Since pets produce litters rather than single babies, it's not necessary for a huge percentage of them to reproduce. Plenty of future pets can come from individuals who live with people with resources of time and money and experience to devote to responsible breeding.

If you wish to consider breeding from your pet, sufficient resources for example, must be put aside to care for the pregnant mother, to allow for the possibility of necessary veterinary intervention such as the possibility of difficult birth, including caesarian section. You also need to be prepared for the possibility of the heartbreak associated with maternal and infant deaths.

And also of course be prepared to wean and care for the offspring until they are old enough to go to new homes.

If you feel this is for you, then we advise you to find an expert breeder to mentor you through the whole process.

### CATS

**Tom cats** which have not been neutered will tend to roam and are therefore at a much higher risk of being involved in traumas such as road traffic accidents. They also tend to fight more with other cats putting them at risk from developing abscesses and contracting diseases such as FIV through bite wounds. They also tend to spray urine to mark their home as their territory. All of these difficult behaviours are greatly reduced by having your male cat neutered. This also helps in population control and production of unwanted pets.

**Female Cats** can enter puberty from as young as 4 months of age. By spaying you will prevent your female cat from undergoing the quite violent mating procedure and prevent unwanted pregnancies which pose a considerable risk in young females. It also reduces her exposure to disease through mating and through bites. Obviously, neutering female cats early completely eliminates diseases of the ovaries and womb and reduces the incidence of breast cancer. Spaying is advised at 5-6 months of age. Neutering your cat - male or female - is the best and most humane way of reducing the stray cat population, so preventing healthy unwanted cats / kittens from being destroyed.