

SPAY/NEUTER FOR TEMPERAMENT

This question is often asked: “Will my dog make a better pet if they are spayed or neutered?” That depends on your goals and an understanding of how it can effect behavior. Intact male dogs can act aggressively toward each other and people if they are trying to protect and control their territory. In the dog’s mind, object guarding, resources and perceived “territory” may be your property, toys, food bowl, food or females in heat! Neutering a dog is not emasculating him. If done at an early age, it may reduce these tendencies altogether.

SPAY / NEUTER FOR HAPPINESS

A neutered dog has less temptation to roam, as well as fight. Females also deal with hormonal ups and downs and will fight. Stories have been recanted of females who get along fine, but when one goes into heat, another will join, then the survival cycle begins of who will get the male to carry on the gene pool. Be mindful that dogs are dogs. Know your dogs and know your breeds. Look at the picture of the ex-greyhound (millions are relinquished to shelters every year worldwide) who weighs 85lbs and can reach a speed of 40mph in a few seconds. Look at the Leonberger pup at 10 weeks and then the adult who now weighs 130—150 lbs.

SPAY / NEUTER FOR FOCUS

ALL puppies and dogs (bred, bought or adopted) must have positive basic training and continued education to safely and happily integrate them into a human household. Humans can learn from training in lifestyle management skills and understanding how dogs communicate which is different from us!

FOCUS is increased when dogs are neutered/spayed. Dogs have keenly enhanced senses compared to ours. If your goal is to train or compete in agility, tracking (other venues) or simply enjoy a canine companion that focuses on you more than everything else, then you need to understand, connect and get focused too! Dogs live in the here and now, so take a deep breath!

Let’s face it ... spaying and neutering dogs who are not intended for breeding or to enhance the breed-line is the ethically right thing to do! It will save dog’s lives and help reduce world wide indiscriminate breeding and over-population. If you believe that your dog will be healthier without, then it is your responsibility to keep them safe from harm or causing harm to others.



SHOULD I BREED MY DOG?

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RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

Puppies are adorable, but if you decide to breed, please consider the reasons. There are already too many unwanted dogs in the world. The USA alone euthanizes approximately 8,000,000 each year. As dog guardians, let us all band together to resolve rather than aggravate this unfortunate situation.

Breeding dogs has its emotional and investment costs too. Ask a breeder what it is like to see a female dog (dam) go through a difficult birth or Caesarean section, or to witness the death of a beloved dog and/or her pups. Death plays as large a role as life when it comes to breeding dogs. It is rare for a large litter of pups to survive. It is even more rare to have them survive when placed in human homes without careful assessment of the potential buyers and their goals.

It is over-optimistic to assume that you can recoup your investment or even make a profit, unless you are over-breeding. Few experienced breeders come out ahead by selling puppies, once they have paid stud fees, provided veterinary care and food for the mother and litter and have accounted for their enormous physical, emotional and financial investment.

WHAT IS YOUR INTENTION?

If you choose to go forward to breed, please embrace the belief that each new litter your dam produces should represent an improvement over the last. This means that you choose the best possible stud dog who, when matched with a female, will enhance the quality, health, longevity and temperament of the breed!

You need to strengthen the lines for quality, health & temperament.

SPAY/NEUTER FOR HEALTH AND LONGEVITY

Possibly the best reason to have your dog neutered or spayed is health, although there is evidence that left to at least 1-year, joints, bones and muscles enjoy the benefit of hormones. Some advocate a reduced rate of mammary or prostate cancer. It can reduce potential infections involving the uterus and ovaries that are removed during surgery.

Talk to your Veterinarian or Breeder regarding spaying / neutering and bone / joint / muscle growth.

The Rewards of your careful intentions will be long-lived and Appreciated by dogs and humans.

Another good reason is that owners are spared the stress of having to confine the female who, when she comes into a heat cycle that can last three weeks or more, sends out enticing messages to male dogs in the vicinity. Spaying eliminates the worry of unwanted pregnancies and the messy stains on carpets and furniture.

How does the female dog process this information when after six months of attention from family members, they are suddenly shunned, have to wear diapers and notice strange facial expressions that imply “yuck”?

Neutering represents an advantage as far as prevention is concerned. Neutering (and spaying females) is more important when owners socialize, train and simply want to enjoy canine companionship.

Spayed/neutered dogs do not gain weight if nutrition and exercise are balanced with their energy needs and lifestyle (exercise).

