

Myths and Facts About Spaying and Neutering

MYTH: My pet will get fat and lazy.

FACT: The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't give them enough exercise. Spayed or neutered pets require less calories. More exercise will benefit both of you.

MYTH: It's better to have one litter first.

FACT: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier and happier.

MYTH: My children should experience the miracle of birth.

FACT: But will they? Even if children are able to see a pet give birth — which is unlikely, since it usually occurs at night and in seclusion — the lesson they will really learn is that animals can be created and discarded as it suits adults. Explain to children that preventing the birth of some pets can save the lives of others.

MYTH: But my pet is a purebred.

FACT: 25% of pets brought to animal shelters around the country are purebreds. There are just too many dogs and cats — mixed breed and purebred.

MYTH: I want my dog to be protective.

FACT: Spaying or neutering does not affect a dog's natural tendency to "defend his own turf". And, he'll be less likely to wander off.

MYTH: I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.

FACT: Don't confuse your emotional needs and relationships with your pets instinctive hormonal responses. Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

MYTH: But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.

FACT: A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean her offspring will be a carbon copy. Professional animal

breeders who follow generations of bloodlines can't guarantee they will get just what they want out of a particular litter. A pet owner's chances are even slimmer. In fact, an entire litter of puppies or kittens might receive all of a pet's (and her mate's) worst characteristics.

MYTH: Only females need to be fixed.

FACT: But how do those females get pregnant? A male pet can easily father 750 offspring in his lifetime. And if he gets into the neighbor's yard and mates with the wrong pet, her owner could sue.

MYTH: It's too expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered.

FACT: They're cheaper in the long run than caring for the litters! Financial assistance is available from the Mobile SPCA. License fees for spayed or neutered pets are cheaper. The one-time cost of surgery is much cheaper than treating abscesses, wounds from accidents and bites, cancer, uterine diseases and male genital problems.

MYTH: I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.

FACT: You may find homes for all of your pet's litter. But each home you find means one less home for the dogs and cats in shelters who need good homes. Also, in less than one year's time, each of your pet's offspring may have his or her own litter, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time.

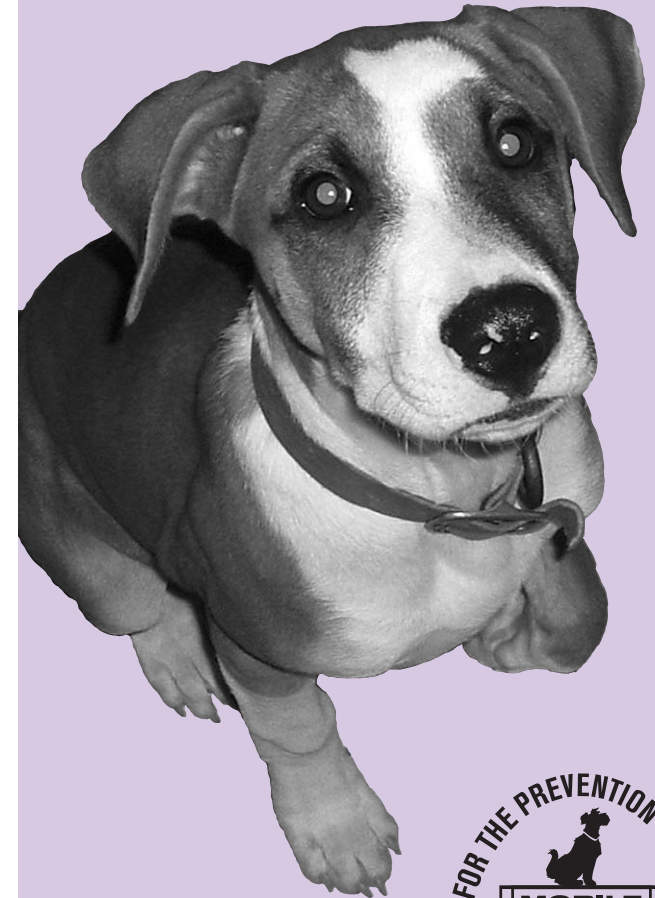


"ABOUT MADDIE'S FUND"

Maddie's Fund,® The Pet Rescue Foundation, (www.maddiesfund.org) is a family foundation funded by PeopleSoft Founder Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl to help create a no-kill nation. The first step is to help develop programs that guarantee loving homes for all healthy shelter dogs and cats throughout the country. The next step will be to save the sick and injured pets in animal shelters nationwide. Maddie's Fund is named after the family's beloved Miniature Schnauzer who passed away in 1997.

Why Spay or Neuter?

A Happier, Healthier Pet!



Mobile SPCA

620 Zeigler Circle West

Mobile, AL 36608

633-3531

www.mobilespca.org

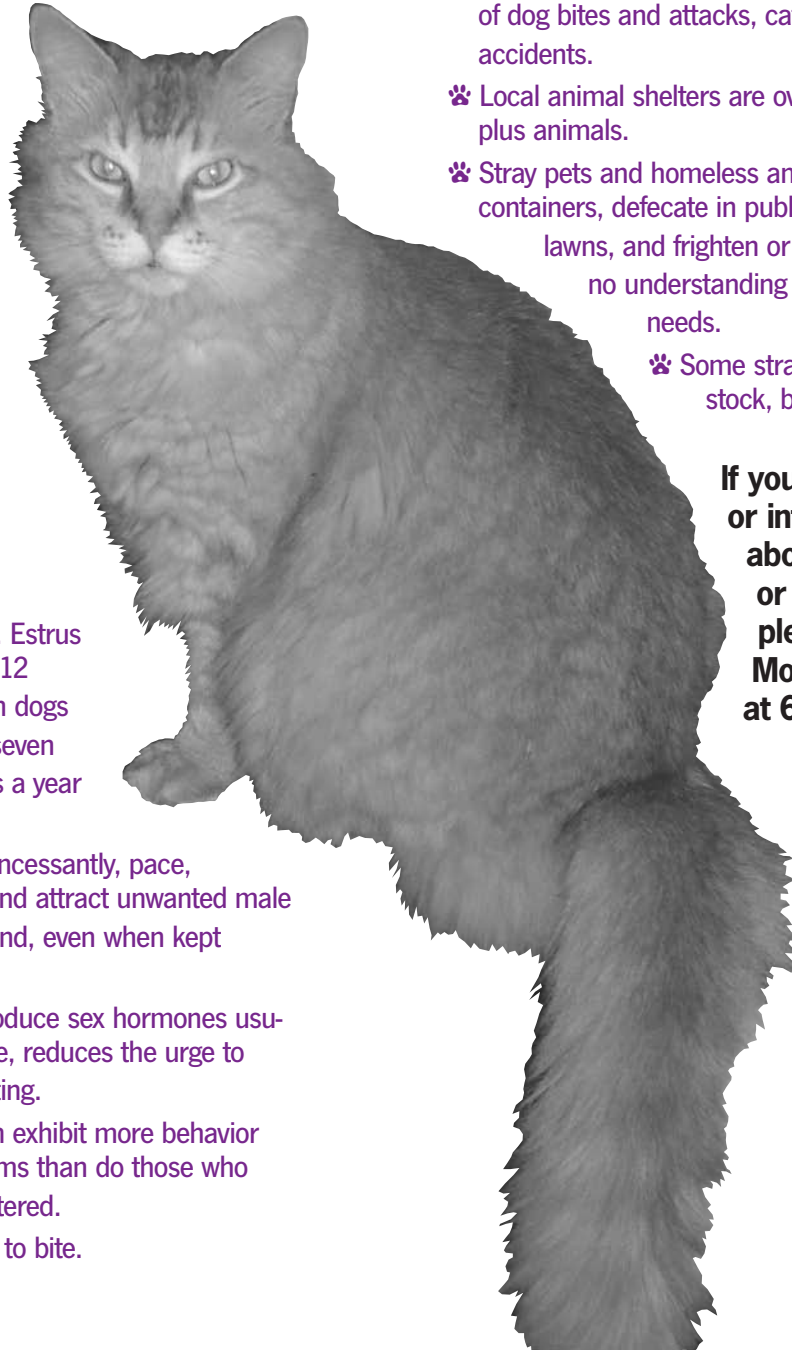


Spaying or Neutering Is Good for Your Pet

- 🐾 Helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- 🐾 Can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat.
- 🐾 Eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrus cycle.
- 🐾 Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- 🐾 Makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- 🐾 Neutering cats makes them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- 🐾 Eliminates her heat cycle. Estrus lasts an average of six to 12 days, often twice a year in dogs and an average of six to seven days, three or more times a year in cats.
- 🐾 Females in heat can cry incessantly, pace, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals from blocks around, even when kept indoors.
- 🐾 Removing organs that produce sex hormones usually stops the mating drive, reduces the urge to roam and reduces mounting.
- 🐾 Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered.
- 🐾 Can make pets less likely to bite.



- 🐾 Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying and Neutering Are Good for the Community

- 🐾 4,229 healthy adoptable animals were killed in Mobile County shelters in 2003.
- 🐾 Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks, cat scratches and traffic accidents.
- 🐾 Local animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- 🐾 Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs.
- 🐾 Some stray animals also kill livestock, birds and wildlife.

If you need assistance or information about spaying or neutering your pet, please call the Mobile SPCA at 633-3531.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 🐾 Every hour 2,000 to 3,000 puppies and kittens are born in the United States. That's about 70,000 pets a day. Only 10,000 humans are born each day in the US.
- 🐾 Only 1 in ten of these animals will find a permanent home.
- 🐾 A dog or cat abandoned on the street has the life expectancy of 1 year.
- 🐾 6-8 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year.
- 🐾 3-4 million cats and dogs are euthanized each year. Over 12,000 animals were killed in Mobile shelters in 2003. This is not the fault of the shelters. It is the fault of irresponsible pet owners.
- 🐾 Only 25-30% of dogs and 2-3% of cats are reclaimed by owners from shelters each year.
- 🐾 25% of dogs in shelters are purebred.
- 🐾 Only 20-25% of animals in shelters are adopted. The rest must be destroyed costing approximately \$400 million annually in the United States.
- 🐾 In one year a fertile cat can produce 3 litters. Feline litters average from 4 to 6 kittens. In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats.
- 🐾 In one year a fertile dog can produce 2 litters. Canine litters average from 6 to 10 puppies. In six years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs.