



## Tips for you and your dog

### **Q) Why should you spay or neuter your dog?**

#### **A) There are so many reasons why....**

- Fewer Creatures, More Resources
  - Over-population of companion animals makes life more difficult for animals and for human beings. Simple operations, called spaying and neutering, performed by veterinarians, can limit population and improve the quality of life. The doctors remove the reproductive organs so that the animal cannot produce offspring. Animals can go home the day after the operation.
- Better Behavior at Home
  - Having your cat or dog "fixed" will make life easier for you. A spayed or neutered animal is a more relaxed and loyal member of the family. Dogs retain their guard dog instinct after this operation. A neutered tomcat will usually abstain from spraying foul-smelling urine, while male dogs will have a much reduced urge to mount people's legs. Among both dogs and cats, spaying and neutering eliminates the frantic pacing and crying while in heat.
- Better Health
  - Your animal will be healthier after spaying and neutering, and its weight will not be affected. The removal of reproductive organs eliminates the risks of pregnancy and birth. Without the urge to seek out females, males run fewer risks associated with free-roaming animals. Your companion animal will also have reduced risk of prostate problems and testicular or mammary tumors later in life.
- Control dog and cat over-population
- Reduce the number of domestic animals abandoned or euthanized.
- Improve the health of your animal with an affordable operation.
- Protect the health and safety of other by reducing the threat of rabies, bites, and traffic accidents caused by stray animals.
- For Females (Spaying)
  - Eliminates the heat cycle (estrus) and stops bloody discharges
  - Ends crying, nervous pacing, and frantic attempts to get outside
  - Ends unwelcome visits by suitors
  - Reduces or eliminates the risk of mammary tumors
  - Eliminates the dangers of mastitis (inflammation of the breast), ovarian cysts, miscarriage, and complications of delivery
- For Males (Neutering)
  - Stops the mating drive and reduces the urge to roam
  - Reduces mounting of furniture and people's legs
  - Stops a cat's spraying to mark territory
  - Lowers the risk of male genital problems and prostate diseases
- For both Males & Females
  - Removes discomfort, distress, and distraction
  - Increases the life expectancy

Dogs benefit from an annual examination by your North Idaho Animal Hospital veterinarian.

*From Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine*