

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

Beat the Heat

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

Female dogs and cats come into heat and can get pregnant as early as 4 months of age. About 96% of the kittens and 46% of the puppies born in Indiana are accidents. The owners just didn't realize the mother was old enough, or that she had even been around a male. But the facts are simple, if your pet is over 4 months of age, you need to get her spayed now.

There are plenty of "old wives" tales about spaying and neutering. One is that you should let your female pet go through at least one heat cycle or have a litter before getting her fixed. This is not true. There are many reasons why you should spay your pet BEFORE her first heat.

1. **It is safer for your pet.** A smaller uterus and blood vessels mean less bleeding and fewer risks during surgery.
2. **It is less expensive for you.** Most veterinarians charge by weight for a spay or neuter and your pet will be smaller when she is 4 months old than when she is 4 years old. There may also be an additional charge for an enlarged uterus such as when a pet is in heat or pregnant or has been through several heats or pregnancies.
3. **You don't have to worry about her having any babies in her lifetime.** Since having a litter does not make your pet happier, better behaved or more intelligent, there is no reason not to spay. In fact, letting her have a litter significantly increases her risk for breast cancer later in life. She will hunt or herd just as well after she is spayed as before.

The most common reason pets aren't spayed is because the owner hasn't gotten around to it yet. So they put it off until their pet has a litter of mixed breeds, cancer, a uterine infection or has to have a C-Section under dangerous, expensive emergency conditions.

Unless you plan to show your dog or cat, there is no reason not to have her spayed now. You will not get rich breeding your pet and if you are not actively involved in improving the breed, you could do

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harm by indiscriminant breeding. Breeding animals is best left to the experts.

The only way to control the pet overpopulation problem is by not allowing your pet to have even one litter. If every female dog or cat produced one litter, the problem would be so out of control that the government would eventually have to step in and make new laws. The only way to guarantee no litters is to have your pet spayed before the first heat cycle. So BEAT THE HEAT! Have you pet spayed today.

Call the Animal Hospital of Lanesville for an appointment at 952-3643. 📞