

Why Spay and Neuter?

By Carla Rodriguez M.S. DVM

At Valley Oak SPCA clinic we offer low cost spay and neuter surgery to the surrounding communities. Most people know spaying and neutering is the “right” thing to do but many who think the cost of surgery is high should consider other potential costs associated with delaying surgery.

Spaying and neutering can prevent cancer from developing in both female and male dogs. Males can develop testicular cancer and females can develop mammary cancer, or uterine infections (pyometra). With each heat cycle the risk of developing mammary cancer increases and uterine infections may also occur after a heat cycle. These conditions are associated with high treatment costs as emergency pyometra surgery or mass removal surgery can be very costly.

One of the top reasons pets are surrendered at shelters or abandoned by owners are behavioral issues. Spaying and neutering can curb some behaviors such as spraying by cats or marking by dogs, aggression in some animals, mounting and the desire to mate which can lead to roaming. Pets that roam are more likely to fight, get hit by a car or have other accidents that can be costly to pet owners and can reduce the pets’ lifespan. Many of these roaming pets contribute to the pet overpopulation problem we see in the valley. Stray animals are a danger to the public as stray dogs can form packs and may occasionally attack. City tax dollars are used to maintain animals in public animal shelters, provide medical care for them, and to trap and control strays.

Feral cats are also a problem in many communities across the globe. The cost of feral cats is not only monetary but environmental. In many areas feral cats are detrimental to wildlife and negatively impact local ecology.

To make an appointment for your pet to be spayed or neutered please call Valley Oak SPCA Clinic at 741-1121, email Clinic@vospc.org or come to our Clinic located at 9405 W Goshen Ave in Visalia.