

FACTS

- You should have your pet spay/neutered before 6 months of age.
- You can spay/neuter your pet as young as 8 weeks with NO ill or adverse effects.
- It reduces the amount of unwanted litters, strays and abandoned animals.
- It is estimated there are 70,000 pets within the KC area and 5-8 million pets nationwide are euthanized each year for lack of homes.
- It decreases the chances of three types of cancer in males and two types in females.
- At least one (if not more) of every litter will be abandoned, abused or euthanized no matter how hard you try to find a place for them in a good home.
- Reduces aggression, roaming, fighting behaviors and unwanted suitors.
- Reduces marking by males.
- Virtually eliminates the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.
- Eliminates the messy heat cycle in females.
- All low-kill or no-kill shelters have a waiting list that are months long.
- Many shelters are at an 80% kill rate, so abandoning them at an area shelter is not the answer.
- Litters are expensive. Costs include, food, medical shots, worming and a lot of time. And just hope one doesn't become sick that requires intensive medical treatment or having to deal with its death.
- It is estimated that if no cat or dog gave birth for seven years, only then would we empty our shelters.

FALSE

- It is natural and better for a female if she has one litter. (**Truth:** giving birth is stressful to the pet and extreme caution should be used when they are pregnant and when they are with pups/kittens. It can actually make them more aggressive. Greatly increase the chances of breast cancer in females.)
- My pet will get fat. (**Truth:** there is a hormone change, but overweight is caused by over feeding.)
- They will get lazy. (**Truth:** It does calm an animal down but that doesn't mean they lose all their energy.)
- The majority of pets euthanized in shelters are mixed breeds. (**Truth:** at least 50% are pure breeds and the majorities are young animals.)
- All shelter pets have behavior problems. (**Truth:** the number one reason for relinquishing a pet to a shelter is because the humans were moving and didn't take their companion(s) not because of behavior problems.)
- It is un-natural to neuter a male. (**Truth:** They don't notice or miss it. It does allow them to be a more social animal by lessening aggressive behavior.)
- My pet is so good; I want to pass on these traits. (**Truth:** Personalities are usually NOT "passed" on, and without extensive lineage and genetic knowledge, you could be passing on faulty genes such as cancer, aggression and accidentally inbreeding your pet.)

CHILDREN AND LITTERS

- Letting your children experience the birth process might seem like a good idea, but females become aggressive during this time, and the heat cycle is messy.
- If you feel it is a learning process you want them to experience, then first take them to an area shelter and let them experience where one from your litter will end up and be euthanized. That breeding and having to give away the litter is upsetting and breeding for a profit is a poor example to set.
- Wouldn't it be better to teach your child about giving, caring and responsibility instead of breeding?
- Offer to foster a pregnant pet from a shelter instead of adding to the over population.
- An un-neutered male or un-spay female is more likely to be aggressive which is not a positive trait to have around children.