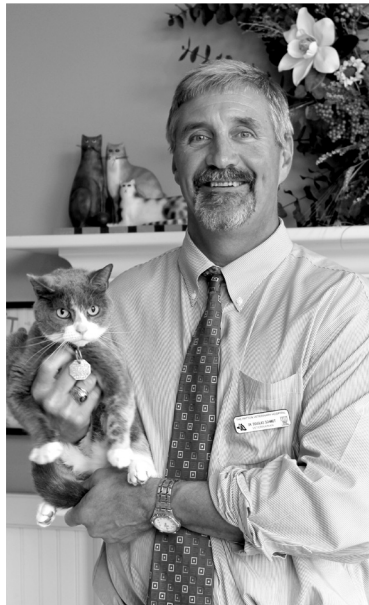


ASK OUR VET, DR. SCHMIDT



Top 5 reasons to spay your female dog

5) **FIGHTING!** Intact (non-altered) female dogs are more likely to attract unwanted male dog attention. This can lead to dog fights and serious injury to your pet. Also, intact male dogs may begin “marking” your area with urine.

4) **ITS A MESS!** In general, females in heat will bleed for several days. This leaves a bloody mess on your floors and possibly your furniture. It is often necessary to purchase expensive pads and diaper devices that will allow you to keep your home cleaner during the heat cycle.

3) **OVERPOPULATION!** In the US, 5 to 7 million companion animals enter shelters every year. Of that number 3 to 4 million are euthanized due to an inability to find them homes. This means that not spaying your animal is not only a personal problem, but also contributes to a nationwide problem of companion animal overpopulation.

2) **LIFETHREATENING INFECTION!** About 25% of non-spayed female dogs will develop a life threatening infection in the uterus called pyometra. This infection if left untreated is fatal to your dog. Signs of pyometra include: vaginal discharge, increased drinking, severe lethargy, decreased appetite, and vomiting/diarrhea.

1) **MAMMARY CANCER!** Breast cancer affects 1 in 8 adult women. This type of cancer also affects dogs. There is a proven relationship to how many heat cycles your dog experiences and the likelihood of developing breast cancer. Studies show once your female dog has had one heat cycle she has a 7% incidence of developing breast cancer as an adult, and a 25% incidence after 2 heat cycles. Breast cancer has a 50% chance of being malignant (meaning having the potential to spread to other areas of the body), and possibly fatal. Spaying your female dog prior to her **FIRST** heat cycle, will basically eliminate the possibility of her developing this cancer.



PATTON
VETERINARY
HOSPITAL



Dr. Douglas Schmidt
246-3611

www.pattonvethospital.com