

Pet news

# Short and long term effects of not spaying/neutering

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*Contributing Writer*

The most obvious reason to spay or neuter a pet is controlling the pet population.

"Second most important is pet behavior," said Jeanna Scheehle, office manager at Southside Animal Clinic.

"Male dogs can smell a female dog in heat up to five miles away," she said.

"Once they get that scent, they will literally walk out in front of a truck.

"They are not going to be a good pet if they are consumed with breeding, which they will be," said Scheehle.

These kind of habits are expected of dogs not fixed and

can even lead to trauma for the dog and owner.

Ronald Lott, owner and veterinarian at Appleby Sand Road Animal Clinic said "trauma to a pet is when they are out chasing a female and they get into fights, hit by cars, shot by angry neighbors, etc."

And it is not just the male dogs that catch a scent and follow it to it's source.

"When that female comes in heat, it is not just dogs chasing her, it is her chasing dogs," said Lott.

Besides unwanted roaming, aggression is another characteristic a dog owner can expect with a dog that is not fixed.

"We have all dealt with many male dogs that are

highly aggressive when a female dog is in heat nearby," said Jamie Shelton, supervisor at the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter.

Neutered male dogs are also less likely to get in the habit of lifting their leg while urinating.

"Male dogs, not neutered, are going to lift their leg while urinating because they are marking their territory," said Scheehle.

"It goes back to behavior ... the animal is not behaving well and they end up in the shelter," she said.

If a dog is fixed later in life, it is possible that the behavior will stick with him forever.

"If they are neutered young

enough they won't hike their leg," said Shelton.

According to Lott, unfixed pets could end up with more medical problems in their lives.

"There's prostate cancer, prostate infection, it reduces hernias, a cancer called parietal adenomas, mammary cancer, urinary cancer, urinary infection, which can be life threatening, ovarian cancer, urinary prolapse, vaginal prolapse, vaginal hyperplasia," said Lott.

"I just think that unless someone is in the business of raising quality pure breed animals, then their dog should be spayed or neutered.

"I just think it is a respon-

sibility of a pet owner," said Lott.

According to Jamie Shelton, the Nacogdoches Animal Services and Adoption Center's low-cost spay neuter clinic, SpayNeuterNac, opened recently.

Prices range from 25 to 45 dollars for spay/neutering cats and 40 to 45 for dogs. Shelton said these prices vary depending on the size of the dog but usually stay below 80 dollars. In order to take advantage of SpayNeuterNac, an application must be filled out and approved. To learn more contact Shelton at 936-560-5011.

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