

TO SPAY & NEUTER – OR NOT?



As more studies and articles are being published every year on the health implications of neutering and spaying dogs, more pet owners (and veterinarians) are giving these procedures a second thought. We have seen that spaying and neutering pets has helped tremendously curbing pet overpopulation. Besides population control, for decades veterinarians have also warned pet guardians about the risks of mammary and testicular cancer, uterus infections, and prostate disease which are higher in intact animals. While these risk are certainly real, we now also know that the longer dogs keep their sex hormones, the longer they may live and the less they are prone to certain skin and bone cancers, as well as hip dysplasia and cruciate ligament tears.

Many pet owners don't know that there are alternatives to removing a pet's gonads and that some veterinarians are offering these procedures. By choosing a vasectomy or ovary-sparing spay over a traditional spay or neuter, pet guardians can still avoid unwanted litters and maintain their pet's hormone status and the associated potential health benefits. While these alternative procedures may not be the right fit and answer for every pet owner, their pros and cons should be discussed with the family veterinarian as an alternative option to a traditional spay/neuter.

For more information on this topic, check out the links below:

<https://www.parsemusfoundation.org/projects/ovary-sparing-spray>

<http://ivcjournal.com/the-pros-of-partial-spay>

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2016/07/27/neutering-spaying-effects.aspx>

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0021997516300500>

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/golden-retriever-study-suggests-neutering-affects-dog-health>