



Focusing on your pet



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The pros of animal sterilisation spelt out

THE SPCA MOVEMENT is governed by statute: Act 169 of 1993. In terms of this national law, all animals adopted from SPCAs must be sterilised. There are good reasons for this, all in the interest of the welfare of animals.

It is imperative that pet owners prevent the birth of more puppies and kittens. Spaying and neutering are low-risk surgeries performed by a veterinarian under general anaesthetic. The primary reason for sterilisation is, of course, reducing the pet overpopulation but there are other very good reasons why you should ensure that all your pets are sterilised:

- Spaying or neutering makes animals better, more affectionate pets. It has no effect on a dog's alertness or natural protective instincts.
- Unneutered males try to control and expand their territories, which leads to roaming and fighting - habits that can get your pet injured, lost or killed.
- Unneutered males also spray and mark. But, having them neutered reduces or eliminates these types of unsociable habits.
- Unneutered males are prone to prostate problems and testicular cancer. Having them neutered reduces the risk of these health prob-

lems which mean a longer life for the animal and fewer and lower veterinary bills for you.

- Spaying a female before her first heat cycle reduces the risk of mammary gland tumours by 99 per cent.



- Spaying eliminates heat cycles and the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer.

A quick few words on the subject: With improved technology and a greater understanding of animal biology, veterinary experts endorse "early age sterilisation" - as does the SPCA movement in South Africa.

This involves sterilising an animal as young as eight weeks. Most vets are willing and able to sterilise an animal from the age of eight weeks, or at least before the onset of the first heat cycle for females and the spraying/marketing behaviour in males. Both of these can occur around the age of four months.

A veterinary hospital with all mod-cons

THE ORANGE GROVE Veterinary Hospital was established in 1947. The three partners have many years' veterinary experience between them. The hospital complies with the strict standards for veterinary hospitals, as determined by the South African Veterinary Council, and has been awarded hospital accreditation status by the South African Veterinary Association.

The hospital utilises the most modern equipment and technology and is an officially approved teaching facility for veterinary students. The hospital is equipped to perform many types of surgical and diagnostic procedures, including routine laboratory diagnostic services, X-ray and ECG examinations.

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