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Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

REASON for Burke

voice of REASON:

Summer 2024

helping you care for the pets you love!



So you may know that REASON stands for Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter. But what is spaying and neutering anyway?



Dee with Pilot

Spaying is the actual removal of the uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes in female pets, similar to a complete hysterectomy

for humans. This prevents any future pregnancies of the pet. Removal of the ovaries also eliminates the main source of hormones that drives the female's heat cycle and behavior related to the breeding instinct.

Neutering is the actual removal of the testicles in male pets (we don't generally do this to humans!) to stop his ability to reproduce. This greatly reduces behavioral problems such as marking and other territorial behaviors in males as well.

Both of these surgeries are routine and generally low-risk for our pets.

Responsible pet owners recognize the importance of spaying and neutering their pets to keep the unwanted pet population down in their communities. The harsh truth is that many unwanted litters end up being euthanized in shelters. Worse, they end up starving or freezing to death, or getting hit by cars, or getting abused or shot at by not-very-nice people. And yes, you read that right - there are things worse than humane euthanasia. But we CAN do our part to ensure these unwanted litters aren't even born in the first place!

That's why REASON is so important: we realize that many in our community want to do right by their pets, but simply cannot afford the spay/neuter surgery. We offer low-cost surgeries for our low-income residents in Burke County to help increase the number of altered pets and decrease the number of unwanted litters being born.

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state of REASON: celebrating pets

July

- National Lost Pet Prevention Month
- July 1: National ID Your Pet Day
- July 31: National Mutt Day

August

- National Immunization Awareness Month
- August 8: International Cat Day
- August 15: National Check the Chip Day
- August 17: Clear the Shelters Day (3rd Saturday in August)
- August 26: National Dog Day & World Dog Day
- August 28: Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day

September

- September 15-21: Adopt a Less-Adoptable-Pet Week (3rd week in September)
- September 26: Remember Me Thursday (adoptable pets waiting in shelters, 4th Thursday in September)
- September 28: World Rabies Day

(continued from page 1)

The rescue organizations are fighting to get all the current unwanted pets adopted and into good homes; our job is to help by limiting how many unwanted pets there are to begin with!

“We operate by donations and grants, so if you do not qualify for our services, you can still help by spaying and neutering your own pets, by donating to our organization, or even by sponsoring a neighbor who does qualify. And, of course, you can volunteer!”

Dee Schaller Greene
President

You're invited!



Total Spays/Neuters Supported by REASON (as of June 2024)

5,699

fireworks and thunder: loud sounds can terrify your pets



Ears back. Body trembling. Pacing back and forth. Shaking. Crying. Scratching at the door. Trying to flee. Hiding in the bathtub or crawling under the bed. The signs of a scared pup are familiar to dog owners, and they're especially common in summer during fireworks.

Up to 50 percent of dogs are afraid of fireworks. Dogs often run away when they are frightened which results in them getting lost or injured. The ASPCA found that nearly 1 In 5 lost pets go missing after being scared by the sound of fireworks, thunderstorms, and other loud noises.

Dogs hear more than twice as many frequencies as humans, and they can also hear sounds four times farther away. What is loud to you is **LOUD** to your dog. This may mean his heart rate increases, adrenaline rushes through his system, and more stress hormones circulate through his body.

Although dogs tend to bark and whine during loud noises, cats may have more subtle reactions. Cats might become clingy or restless, and some cats may pace. It's also possible that your cat will simply hide until the fireworks or thunderstorms are over.

You should calmly reassure and comfort your anxious pet. You can attempt to distract them with toys, a game, food puzzles, or treats: anything to keep their mind busy and to encourage them to do something fun.

Don't scold, shame, or punish if you do everything right and your pet still loses it. Scolding a stressed pet only makes the situation worse. Instead, reward them for positive behavior using training treats or a good head scratch.

The most important thing you can do is stay calm. Pets are reassured by our attitudes. If we make a big fuss, then they have a good reason to panic. If they see we are calm and relaxed, it's more likely that they will understand there is no real danger.

points to ponder: calming a scared pet during fireworks



- A tired pet is a happy pet. Make sure to take a nice long walk or have an energetic play session during the day. Make sure he is wearing an ID tag just in case he escapes later.
- Secure your property by closing gates and making sure fences are in good condition.
- Don't feed too many treats. Stay with your pet's regular feeding schedule to avoid upset tummies made worse by stress.
- Take your pet into a safe room such as a familiar bedroom or his crate. Add blankets or clothing with a familiar smell. Leave food and water in the room (and a litter box for cats). Scatter some treats to keep him distracted and happy. Allow him to enter or exit the room freely. Close the door when fireworks begin.
- Cover any windows in the safe area to further block out noise and flashes of fireworks (or lightning during thunderstorms).
- Play music or a TV to muffle loud outside noises and to distract your pet. A fan or a small radio may also be a safe way to muffle outside noises.
- Do not punish your pet for showing behaviors that are caused by stress. These behaviors may include destructiveness, howling/barking/whining, pacing, or trying to escape/hide. Add calming wraps such as thundershirts or meds as prescribed by your vet. (These should be purchased well in advance and tested for comfort on your pet.)
- Try to distract and reassure your pet that everything is OK, but don't 'force' this if he becomes particularly distressed. Have food and toys available in the room such as Kong toys, bones, treat balls, and long-lasting treats. Extended chewing will help calm dogs and stimulation will distract them.
- **Beware:** If you are leaving the pet alone in a room, he may chew items or knock things over. Remove cords, cables, and any breakables.
- Return home as quickly as possible to check on your pet. Take him out to the toilet after the noises stop. Keep him on a leash just in case he becomes spooked.

flea and tick control

Did you know fleas and ticks can carry up to 20 diseases with varying symptoms?



Dogs and cats (indoor and outdoor) are susceptible to fleas, ticks, and many other transmittable diseases due to their environment, habitats, and daily activities. Fleas and ticks latch onto your pets and feed on their blood. This allows them to transmit harmful diseases to your pets in addition to all the people in your household. Flea and tick preventative can help protect your pets and home all year round.



Be sure to consult with your vet about the best options and doses of flea and tick preventative for your pets. From homeopathic remedies to prescription medicines, there are options that fit every budget and lifestyle.

Let's avoid discomfort and illness in our pets by finding the best preventatives and applying them regularly to our treasured pals.

Yellow Cat & Friends



Treat your pets for tick and fleas. They really don't have superpowers.

"Yellow Cat came to me 6 years ago from the woods behind my house. I think he had been dumped because he wasn't at all afraid, even after I tried to shoo him away multiple times. I was a dog person and we did not keep cats. Five and a half years later I was with him when he passed away. My first cat. When he died, I started doing Yellow Cat cartoons to tell his story, to honor him, and to help myself heal from his loss. Big Brown was also a rescue. She and Yellow Cat became good friends in time, so as a part of his story I needed to include her in the telling."

-Tim White, artist



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reason-burkenc.org



4 tips for pet care summer safety

Summer can be a lot of fun for you and your pets— all it takes is a little extra attention and care. We all love our furry friends, so let's keep them safe this summer and watch for signs of overheating!

Prevent pest problems

Before summer starts, be sure to test for heartworms at the vet's office. While you're there, ask about the best flea and tick preventative and the proper dosage for your pets.

Make your pet's comfort a priority

Provide proper shade and plenty of fresh water. Avoid walking on hot asphalt and concrete. If you can't rest your bare hand on the pavement for 5 seconds without feeling too hot, then it's too hot for your dog's paws! Walk early morning or late evening when it's cooler.



Watch out for dangerous creatures

While out and about on daily walks, be careful when entering grassy and rocky areas where snakes and other poisonous creatures might hide.

Avoid leaving pets in vehicles

Be cautious about leaving pets in vehicles, even if only for a few minutes, even with windows cracked. Every year, hundreds of dogs left inside parked cars suffer heatstroke and die. Remember, your dog is more sensitive to heat than you are! At 80 degrees, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 100 degrees in 10 minutes. On a 90-degree day, it can reach 110 degrees in 10 minutes—and 130 degrees in 30 minutes. This can be fatal.



To find out if you qualify for pet neuter or spay surgery assistance, contact REASON at 828.403.3675.

within REASON: Jenny Overton

Jenny Overton has been a REASON volunteer for 2 years. She has four dogs, a cat, a flock of hens, and a rooster named JohnnyB. She and her dogs Bella, Trixie, Clementine, and Rusty love taking daily walks in the woods.

As a volunteer, Jenny is on the Careline and Fundraising committees and serves as a board member. Jenny loves helping folks

who thought they couldn't afford to spay and neuter their pets. She enjoys educating local residents on how to use REASON as a resource to help control the overpopulation of strays in Burke County.

Do you love helping animals? That is why Jenny agreed to volunteer with REASON. It could be a great place for you to volunteer, too!



Jenny with her dogs

[Open Volunteer Application](#)

ask a vet: heatstroke

by Dr. Don Hemstreet, Morganton Animal Clinic

Heatstroke is real and can have serious consequences in our pets. There is a Bible verse in the book of Job (Job 12:7) that starts with "Ask the beasts and they will tell you . . ." So know your dog, good luck with your cat, and listen to them. Consider their breed, physical makeup, age, health condition, and even their temperament. **Listen to them.** All the above can affect the way they respond to heat.

Classic signs of heatstroke are rapid breathing, and I mean rapid, brick-red gums or ears, vomiting, diarrhea, or seizures. If your pet is showing clinical signs of heatstroke, the first thing to do is get them out of the environment that caused the problem and find an area of shade or cooler area. This is important. Cool them with cool, not cold, water, sponging them down until the temperature starts to drop or

clinical signs improve. Do not wrap them in anything cold like a towel, just sponge with cool water. If seizures occur, it would be best to get them to a veterinary clinic. High temperatures can cause organ failure and fluids may need to be administered. So try to avoid this situation by keeping plenty of fresh water available, shade, cool environment, and only exercise in cool parts of the day.



“Let's save hot dogs for the grill, not the emergency veterinary clinic!”



call us:
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email us:
reason.nc.org@gmail.com

write us:
PO Box 633
Rutherford College, NC
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REASON's mission: save the pets in Burke County...

To eliminate the killing of healthy and unwanted cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens.

We accomplish this by:

- ♦ providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance through partnerships with private practice veterinarians and low-cost clinics,
- ♦ collaborating with other animal welfare groups,
- ♦ promoting education on the humane treatment of animals.

inside the next issue:

- deadly holiday decorations
- autumn safety tips for pets
- REASON's registration made simple

