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Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

REASON for Burke

voice of REASON:

Winter 2025

helping you care for the pets you love!



Ever heard the phrase “multiply like rabbits”? We, in the rescue world, wonder how rabbits got this distinction when we know for a fact it should be CATS!

state of REASON:
celebrating pets

Cats are prolific breeders, and their physical makeup enables them to reproduce rapidly.

Female cats can begin reproducing as early as 4-6 months old. They can go into heat every 2-3 weeks, and remain very fertile throughout their reproductive years. (By contrast, female dogs have heat cycles only twice a year.)

How did we do in 2024?



For example, cats are “induced ovulators,” meaning their ovulation

(the releasing of the egg) occurs as a response to mating. (Read that again.) A female cat can mate multiple times during her heat cycle, leading to litters with multiple fathers.

An unspayed female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce up to 420,000 kittens in just seven years, assuming a low death rate and continuous breeding. This means that millions of healthy cats are euthanized annually due to a lack of resources and homes.

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clients served

Cats also are seasonal breeders, having multiple heat cycles during the spring and summer when the days are longer. Interesting to note, however, is that indoor cats exposed to artificial lighting may also cycle year-round.

A recent article in Time magazine, “Why Street Cats are Taking Over Urban Neighborhoods,” estimates that in large cities like Los Angeles, the number of street cats is nearly the same as the number of humans living there. It's a real community

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pets spayed or neutered

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problem and it's not just limited to rural areas like Burke County. While this issue seems almost impossible to overcome, imagine how many MORE we would have if we weren't working so diligently!

You may be wondering, "What can I do about it?"

The short and simple answer is: spay and neuter!!

We have already covered the physical and behavioral benefits of spaying and neutering in previous newsletters. Stay tuned for our next newsletter, where we will dive into other actions you can take as a community member to address this very thing!

REASON process: part 2

registering your pet for surgery

We sometimes get the question, "Where is REASON located?"

As our volunteers mostly work from home, we don't actually have a physical location. But registration has to be done somewhere, and Walker Road Baptist Church in Morganton kindly allows us the use of their parking lot on the first Saturday of every month. That is the ONLY DAY we are open for registrations which is why it's so important for our clients to be there!

If you're coming to registration for the first time, you might be wondering what to expect.

Well, you'll need to bring a few things. One is PROOF OF RESIDENCY to confirm that

you live in Burke County. If your ID or driver's license doesn't have your current address, you can bring a bill or other document with your name and address on it. You'll also need PROOF OF INCOME since that is how we determine who qualifies for our services. If you receive EBT, SNAP, Medicaid or WIC, you can bring your benefits card. Otherwise, you can bring a pay stub, tax return, or Social Security statement. Finally, you'll need your COPAYMENT. Please bring the exact amount in cash as we cannot accept cards or make change.

One thing you won't need to bring is your pet. They won't be able to sign forms, so they can stay at home for this.

With documents in hand, arrive in the parking lot at the designated time, get in line, and wait. You won't need to get out of the car - we'll come to you. A volunteer will scan your documents, accept the payment, and give you some consent forms to sign.

And that's it! Registration done. Now there's just the appointment to look forward to. We'll get to that in the next issue.



Walker Road Baptist Church

points to ponder: becoming a REASON volunteer

Would you like to help register pets for spay or neuter surgery?

Do you have good communication skills and enjoy talking to people about their pets?

Could you volunteer a few hours on one Saturday a month?

If so, then volunteering for REASON might be a great fit for you!

Don't worry. A REASON volunteer will be by your side to train you how to gather the information we need.

How do you get started? Complete the volunteer application on the website.

Open Volunteer Application

Click above or type in browser: reason-burkenc.org/volunteer/

We look forward to hearing from you!



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

5,960



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



Follow us on Facebook
Reason - Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

Visit us on the web at: reason-burkenc.org

to neuter or not to neuter

Are your male dogs and cats neutered? Many people believe that since male felines and canines can't have babies, they do not need to be neutered.

Research shows that neutering has many positive outcomes that have very little to do with reproduction.

Does your male dog awkwardly mount other dogs or humans? Neutering can reduce this desire in your canine and make for less awkward moments for your guests!

Neutering can reduce the risk of testicular and prostate cancer in male dogs and cats. This helps keep our beloved furry friends healthy and happy!

Cats and dogs who are neutered are also less likely to wander away from home in search of a mate. This helps by reducing the risk of getting lost, contracting contagious diseases, being struck by vehicles, or getting themselves into precarious situations such as fights with other males. Neutering your best slobbery friend may just save their life!

is puppy love real?

Can a dog truly feel love toward its owner?

Don't you love when you open the door and your dog comes running with slobbery kisses and butt wiggles? How about when they cuddle in your lap after a long day? Have you ever wondered if this means your dog loves you?

Oxytocin, also known as the "love hormone," is released in animals' brains when they feel happiness and fulfillment. According to an article from the American Kennel Club (2023), dogs feel the influence of this hormone during their interactions with humans and other dogs. When their furry faces see you coming home, oxytocin pumps through their veins (and ours, too)!

In Europe, a scale was even created to measure the

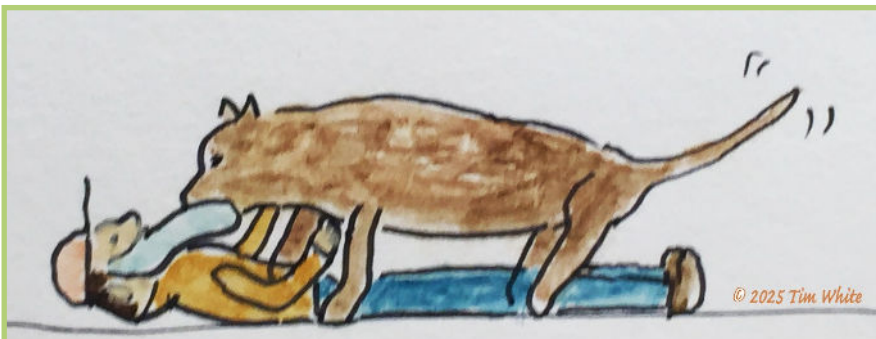
relationship between dogs and their owners called the Monash Dog Owner Relationship Scale (MDORS).

The results of a study using this scale indicated that dogs do indeed feel love toward their owners and feel an even closer kinship to their owners if they are single and do not have children.

That being said, dogs are known to be protective over children more than their adult owners according to the same study.

This study also indicated that if we pet our dogs for five minutes, we get the same boost of oxytocin that hugging a loved one gives us!

Keep this in mind next time you cuddle your pup or see its wiggling butt. The brain boost is good for both of you!



There's not enough lap when the puppy has grown, so we have to find other ways to play together.



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ways to support homeless pets

What about the dogs and cats who did not get a new home for Christmas?

If you can't adopt, there are other ways you can help them.

Sponsor

Sponsor a specific dog or cat at the shelter or in a rescue. Get a list of items the animal might like. Remember animals that are long-term residents. Consider paying their adoption in advance for another family.

Donate

Donate money or needed supplies to the shelter or rescue as a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. Find out if the organization maintains a wish list at Amazon or another pet supply store.

Foster

Foster a dog or cat in your home. Give them a vacation from the shelter and time to experience family life!

Volunteer

Volunteer to walk dogs or play with cats who are still in the shelter. Give them a few hours of one-on-one pampering.



You may also donate to REASON via PayPal from our website:

reason-burkenc.org/donate

kitty kisses and cats in love

Do cats think of humans only as food servers and waste collectors? Or can they actually feel and show love?

Research in 2017 showed that cats preferred interacting with their human over eating their favorite food or playing with toys.

Studies in 2019 found that cats are as strongly bonded to their humans as dogs or even infants are, and that cats adjust their behavior depending on how much attention a person is giving them.

Cats aren't as openly friendly as dogs and their feelings can be hard to read. They can't make "puppy dog" eyes because they lack the facial muscles to raise their eyebrows or make sad faces. And many times they were not trained as kittens to interact with humans.

Research shows that a cat's interaction with their owners will be more positive and last longer if the cat calls all the shots, if they approach the human first. Cats are control freaks; they want to know they can walk away if needed.

So how do cats show their love? The secret is in their behaviors toward their human.

Watching for your return

Does your cat watch for you from a window? Does he run to greet you at the door? If so, he's really been missing you!

Following you like a shadow

Does your cat always seem to be in the same room watching you? Some cats are subtle and watch you quietly; others announce themselves with loud meows.

Bopping you with his head

Does your cat rub his head against your leg? Known as head bunting, this means your cat is transferring the scent from glands on his head to you. He's marking you as a friend that belongs to him.

Rubbing his butt in your face

Your cat is saying, "Hi, how are you?"

Swishing his tail at you

Your cat is giving you a wave if his tail is upright and gently swishing. And if his tail is an upright question mark, he may be wanting to play.

Wrapping his tail around you

If your cat wraps his tail around your arm or leg as he walks past you, he is giving you a hug.

Responding to your voice

If your cat comes running when you call, he recognizes your voice and is happy to see you.

Showing you his stomach

When your cat shows his stomach, he is inviting you to approach, but NOT touch, his belly (most cats prefer to be petted on the head and neck). He's showing you that he feels comfortable and safe around you. He's saying, "I trust you."

Purring around you

Purring usually means your cat is contented, relaxed, and enjoying his life. The little motor inside his throat starts to vibrate when he is being stroked behind the ear or under the chin, talked to, resting on your lap, or being groomed. (Note: cats also purr in situations when they are in pain.)

"Chatting" to you

Cats make all sorts of lovely noises when they feel safe and comfortable.

Kneading you with his paws

If your cat snuggles up next to you and starts kneading, or "making biscuits," he is trying to bond with you as he did with his mother. He is also marking you as his person and showing he feels safe, comfortable, and contented.

Grooming you

When your cat licks your skin or hair, nibbles your hand, or sucks on clothing, he's giving you his scent and marking you as part of his family.

Nibbling you gently

If your cat gives you a gentle, affectionate nibble on your arm, he's showing that you are part of his family.

Blinking slowly at you

Have you seen your cat slowly blinking at you? These slow blinks are called "kitty kisses" by cat behavior experts. This means that your cat trusts you and enjoys your company. You can try returning the kiss by slowly blinking at him.

Bringing you presents

Your cat brings you treasures because he feels safest with you. And, yes, the gift could be a mouse!

Sleeping on you

Cats feel most vulnerable when they sleep. If your cat curls up on you or sleeps next to you, it means he trusts you and enjoys hanging out with you.



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My lap is a happier place with my cat on it. He is a happier cat with my lap under him.

Cat love isn't "in your face" like a dog's love. But, if cat owners are watching closely, they recognize the love and trust that cats show through their body language, sounds, and subtle behaviors.



call us:

828-403-3675

email us:

reason.nc.org@gmail.com

write us:

PO Box 633

Rutherford College, NC 28671

REASON's mission:

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.

