

February is Prevent-A-Litter Month

The Anderson Humane Society announces that February is “Prevent a Litter Month”. The Society will celebrate the month by distributing discount spay / neuter vouchers to citizens of our community who would like to have their pets fixed at a fraction of the cost (co-pays are as low as \$10).

Nationally, between 8 and 12 million animals are surrendered to shelters yearly. Of them, 70% of cats and 60% of dogs never find a home due to pet overpopulation. By making sure that all of our shelter adoptees are spayed and neutered and by helping those families who otherwise could not have afforded to have this important surgery performed, the Humane Society hopes to continue to see a decrease in the number of unwanted births in our community.

By having your dog or cat spayed or neutered, you are making your animal a more pleasant companion by cutting down on odor, scent marking, yowling, restlessness and aggression. The surgery will also help keep your companion healthier, by reducing the risk of certain infections and several forms of cancer. By sterilizing your pet you will also save the expense and trouble of placing animals in proper homes, the results would increase the chances of unwanted shelter animals finding those home. Attached is an application to participate in the program. If you don't need it yourself, please pass it on to someone who could use it. We also have applications available at the shelter, on the blue Humane Society board in the pet section at Wal-Mart, and on our website at www.andersonky.petfinder.com.

Second Hand Smoke (by Dr. Thom Myers)

It surprises me how often we do things that potentially hurt the ones we love the most, usually without thinking. The only thing our K9 friends want, besides food, is to be with us and please us. Our feline friends, of course, want nothing better than for us to serve them. But in either case their main concern is for us to be near and spend time with them.

Physically and biologically there are many differences between the dog, the cat, and humans, but there are also many similarities. Included in these similarities is how they respond to environmental toxins. I'm speaking of a directly controllable toxin in the form of second hand smoke.

For those of us who are non-smokers, it's easily detectable which animals belong to households where people smoke. Even after a day or two of hospitalization, the smoke is detectable on their fur. As much as this toxic substance coats the exterior of the pet, it also coats the interior and absorbs into the lung tissue and blood stream. We frequently see the same types of problems in pets as we do in humans relating to the second hand smoke. Included in these are lung disease, cancer, liver disease, heart disease, kidney disease, asthma and many more. The one component that lowers the instance of complications from this toxin is that our pets' life expectancy is so much shorter than ours. 50 years of smoke is much more damaging then twelve years. But could we make that life expectancy greater without the smoke?

About a year ago I treated a beautiful 7 year old Old English Sheepdog named Bentley for lymphoma (a generalized type of cancer that attacks the lymph system). Bentley lived in a wonderful home where he meant the world to his owners. But both of them were avid smokers and every time Bentley came to see us, he reeked of smoke. After some very aggressive chemo-therapy, Bentley did very well for about a year. Unfortunately, Bentley just recently passed away from complications of the spread of the cancer.

Unlike our friends and family members, our pets don't know that they are slowly being poisoned. All they want is to be with us, yet they can't ask us not to smoke around them. So I'll ask for them. Please, quit smoking (for your own health), if you must smoke, please do it outside or in a well ventilated area away from your pets.

Thanks and your friends will thank you in this life and the next.

Why Spay and Neuter?

Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. - and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, every year 4 to 6 million animals are euthanized because there are no homes for them. If you allow your pet to breed, even if you find a good home for the litter, they take the place of the homeless puppies, kittens and full grown dogs and cats in shelters that need to be adopted. Your litter may well take the life of a living, loving, wonderful—but homeless pet. What can you do to stop the suffering?

It's simple: Spay and Neuter Your Pets!

Prevent A Litter - It's Good for You

- Spayed and neutered pets are better, more affectionate, companions.
- Neutered cats are less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Spaying a female dog or cat eliminates its heat cycle, which can last twenty-one days, twice a year, in dogs, and anywhere from three to fifteen days, three or more times a year, in cats. Females in heat often cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals.
- Spayed and neutered pets are less likely to bite. Unaltered animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than those that have been spayed or neutered.

Prevent a Litter - It's Good for Your Pet

- Spayed and neutered dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- Spaying female dogs and cats eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer.
- Neutering male dogs and cats reduces the incidence of prostate cancer.
- Neutered animals are less likely to roam and fight.

Prevent A Litter - It's Good for the Community

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control and eliminate unwanted animals. Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks. Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.

Sobering Statistics:

Number of cats and dogs entering shelters each year: *6-8 million*

Number of cats and dogs euthanized by shelters each year: *3-4 million*

Number of cats and dogs adopted from shelters each year: *3-4 million*

Number of cats and dogs reclaimed by owners from shelters each year:

Between 600,000 and 750,000—only 15 to 30% of dogs and only 2 to 5% of cats entering shelters

Number of animal shelters in the United States: *Between 4,000 and 6,000*

Percentage of dogs in shelters who are purebred: *25%*

Average number of litters a fertile cat can produce in one year: *3*

Average number of kittens in a feline litter: *4-6*

In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats.

Average number of litters a fertile dog can produce in one year: *2*

Average number of puppies in a canine litter: *6-10*

In six years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs.

SPOTLIGHT ON:



**Spunky-Fostered
Domestic Short Hair - orange and white**

He is also called Spunky Monkey. Spunky is a male, but the mother hen of all that come through the door. He loves kittens and talks to them. Spunky loves his catnip and playing with any toy. Spunky high fives and shakes everyone's hand, likes to lay on you and have his ears rubbed. Spunky is a good cat for a house with lots of other animals. Because of Spunky's love for everyone and even dogs, he doesn't know danger so he needs to stay inside the house. Please contact Spunky's foster mom, Cheryl Soler, if you'd like to visit with her. (502) 859-3489.

**#151 Zeus
Chow Chow, Saint Bernard St. Bernard**

"My name is Zeus and I'm a huge little boy! I'm obviously part chow, but not sure what the other part is. With my size, I may very well be part Saint Bernard, but there's no way to know for sure. I was picked up after hanging out over on Whitney Drive for three days, all by myself. Little pups need somebody to take care of them, even when they're big like me! If you've been looking for a large breed pup for your family, well then come on out and pay me a visit!"



**#233 Oliver
Tabby - Brown**

"Did you come to see little 'ol me? Why, I'm flattered! And so excited too! I'm a little slow to warm up to new people, but I'm a very sweet boy and I'm looking forward to having a home of my own. They say that sometimes people come out here and adopt dogs and cats and take them home, so I'm just waiting my turn. I just know somebody will fall in love with me. So I'll just be patient. I'll be waiting for you... "

**#143 Chester-Sponsored
Beagle**

"Hi there! My name is Chester, as deemed by the nice folks here at the shelter. I'm only about a year old and I was picked up down on Highway 62. I just love people! Man, they're my favorite! I'm hoping that someday I'll have one of my own. If you're looking for a nice beagle boy to be your friend for life, you've found me!" Thank you to Karen Whitehouse, who sponsored a portion of Chester's adoption fee. Now he can go home at a reduced rate!



Anderson Humane Society
1410 Versailles Road
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

Phone (502) 839-6410
E-Mail: ahs_40342@yahoo.com
web: www.andersonky.petfinder.com

“Declawing” by Dr. Christianne Schelling

If you are considering declawing your cat, please read this. It will only take a moment, and it will give you valuable information to help you in your decision. First, you should know that declawing is pretty much an American thing, it's something people do for their own convenience without realizing what actually happens to their beloved cat. In England declawing is termed "inhumane" and "unnecessary mutilation." I agree. In many European countries it is illegal. I applaud their attitude.

Before you make the decision to declaw your cat, there are some important facts you should know. Declawing is not like a manicure. It is serious surgery. Your cat's claw is *not* a toenail. It is actually closely adhered to the bone. So closely adhered that to remove the claw, the last bone of your the cat's claw has to be removed. Declawing is actually an amputation of the last joint of your cat's "toes". When you envision that, it becomes clear why declawing is not a humane act. It is a painful surgery, with a painful recovery period. And remember that during the time of recuperation from the surgery your cat would still have to use its feet to walk, jump, and scratch in its litter box regardless of the pain it is experiencing. Wheelchairs and bedpans are not an option for a cat.

No cat lover would doubt that cats--whose senses are much keener than ours--suffer pain. They may, however, hide it better. Not only are they proud, they instinctively know that they are at risk when in a weakened position, and by nature will attempt to hide it. But make no mistake. This is not a surgery to be taken lightly.

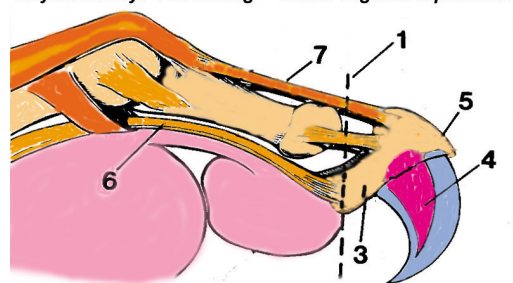
Your cat's body is perfectly designed to give it the grace, agility and beauty that is unique to felines. Its claws are an important part of this design. Amputating the important part of their anatomy that contains the claws drastically alters the conformation of their feet. The cat is also deprived of its primary means of defense, leaving it prey to predators if it ever escapes to the outdoors.

Okay, so now you realize that declawing is too drastic a solution, but you're still concerned about keeping your household furnishings intact. Is there an acceptable solution? Happily, the answer is yes. A big, joyful, humane YES! Actually there are several. You can teach your cat to use a scratching post (sisal posts are by far the best). You can trim the front claws. You can also employ aversion methods. One of the best solutions I've found is Soft Paws®.

Soft Paws are lightweight vinyl nail caps that you glue on the cat's front claws. They're great for households with small children and are extremely useful for people who are away from home all day and can't exercise the watchfulness necessary to train a cat to use a scratching post. Soft Paws® are easy to apply and last about four to six weeks. They come in clear or colors--which are really fun. Now *that's* a kitty manicure! The colored caps look spiffy on Tabby or Tom and have the added advantage of being more visible when one finally comes off. Then you simply replace it. You can find Soft Paws at your local pet supply store.

You need to remember, though, that the caps and nail trimming should only be used on indoor cats who will not be vulnerable to the dangers of the outdoors.

Onychectomy: "Declawing" - Feline Digital Amputation



1. Line of Amputation; 3. Third Phalanx; 4. Ungual Process; 5. Ungual Crest; 6. Flexor Tendon; 7. Dorsal Ligaments - are all severed and amputated in the declawing surgery. Declawing involves 10 separate and painful amputations.

Adapted from: Textbook of Small Animal Surgery 2nd ed; Slatter D, W.B. Saunders Co.