**Effective Spay/Neuter Talk: Neuter Nuggets**

**Convenience**

* No more heat/ estrus cycle in females – no more howling or messy diapers in your home
* Male cats usually will not start spraying if neutered prior to maturity
* Convenient – we come right to your neighborhood!
* Neutering your male dog as a juvenile could prevent unwanted mounting behaviors, especially on children
* Easier to meet New York City Housing Authority/apartment management pet requirements
* No strong data to support spay/neuter changes their “personality”
* Two intact males in same household can result in aggressive behavioral problems

**Cost**

* It is FREE (or low cost!)! And comes with necessary vaccines!!
* Dog license is cheaper for altered pets
* Caring for litters is expensive; susceptible to disease & possibly death
* Veterinary care is very expensive - if you are planning to breed, we recommend that you begin putting aside money several months in advance in case of any medical issues that may occur with the mother or the puppies, e.g. Cesarean

**Health**

* Cancer & other medical issues – testicular cancer & perianal gland tumors in males, mammary tumors in females; 25% of intact females will suffer from pyometras in their lives
* Think your puppy/kitten is too young? Kids bounce back faster than adults; spaying your female before sexual maturity (usually occurs at 6-12 months of age in females, 6-9 months in males) can prevent unwanted behaviors & cancerous mammary tumors
* Pregnancy/giving birth is risky & can be stressful for any dog; spaying eliminates these risks
* It’s not “natural?” Pets do not live in the wild – only you can keep their population in check
* Neutering eliminates drive to mate & stress that it causes hunting & competing for a mate
* Intact male can smell a female in heat up to a mile away – innate drive to breed may cause them to run into traffic or jump the fence

**For Love of Animals**

* Already too many cats living in the streets – fixing them now prevents suffering later if they were to get loose from your home
* Pit bulls – large litters of 8-14 puppies, not enough homes for them all
* Good homes (like yours) are difficult to find, especially 14 of them
* 70,000 puppies & kittens born daily – 7x as many as human babies – never catch up with enough homes
* ~500 pit bulls a month are surrendered at NYC Animal Care & Control. Good dogs suffer because there are not enough homes for them all.
* What will happen to your pet’s puppies or kittens?