



Dear Doctor,

Is a 13½-year-old dog too old to be spayed? What's the earliest the surgery can be done on a puppy?
H.D., Bloomfield Twp.

Dear H.D.,

There is no cutoff age at which a dog is too old for an ovariohysterectomy (also called a "spay"). The total medical picture of the dog, as well as the reasons for performing the surgery, should be carefully considered and thoroughly discussed with your veterinarian. He or she has the information needed to guide you to the correct decision.

The earliest most veterinarians recommend the surgery be performed is 5 to 6 months of age. It is not necessary for a dog to have either a heat period or a litter before the surgery, nor does the surgery in any way change a dog's personality.

Dear Doctor,

My beagle has low blood sugar and has convulsions once in a while. Can anything be done about it?
S.A., Troy

Dear S.A.,

Convulsions can be caused by many medical problems, and accurate diagnosis of their cause often requires extensive physical and laboratory examinations. If your dog's doctor determines that hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) is the initiating factor, the convulsions may be controlled by specific dietary adjustment. A good quality, high protein dog food fed at frequent intervals (four or five times daily) often minimizes the problem. If convulsions occur after exercise, try to keep the activity mild and feed a small meal beforehand. A quick home remedy to stop convulsions that are caused by hypoglycemia is to give the dog a spoonful of honey. Persistent convulsions are a medical emergency, and you should contact a veterinarian immediately.

FOR KIDS

You should be sure to brush your dog or cat at least once or twice weekly. House pets tend to lose a little hair all the year round. If they are not groomed, the dead hairs accumulate in the coat. These hairs will then come out whenever he lays down on the rug or on a chair.

EMU Players to present 'Streetcar'

Tennessee Williams' award-winning play, "A Streetcar Named Desire" will be the offering of the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Players, opening Friday, July 28, and continuing July 29 and 30.

The play, which won a Pulitzer Prize, the Donaldson Award, and the New York Drama Critics Award, is the haunting story of a beautiful girl who is betrayed by love and tormented by the memory of her tragic marriage and the scandal she has precipitated in the small southern town of her birth.

She eventually flees the town to seek refuge in New Orleans.

Written by poet and dramatist Tennessee Williams, the play has won widespread acclaim and has gained one of the widest audiences in contemporary literature.

The EMU Players summer production will be directed by P. George Bird, a professor in the Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts at Eastern. The EMU Box Office is open weekdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. For reservations or further information, call the EMU Box Office at 487-1221.

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