CREATURE COMFORTS

It's the truth: Consequences of surgeries are positive

ANIMALS



to which we all owe him our gratitude.

Before show business, he was a Navy fighter pilot. His life is a true American success story.

An animal lover, Barker often ends his highly rated CBS game show by imploring viewers to "help control the pet population, have your pet spayed or neutered." Good advice, indeed, Just

about everyone can agree, by the number of unwanted animals who are sacrificed in shelters every day, there's an overabun-dance of dogs and cats needing

homes.

If read a column in a professional magazine a few years ago where a vet claimed there wouldn't be too many animals if every person had a pet or two. I think easier solutions exist than foreign everyone to awa govern. ing everyone to own a govern-ment-issued pet.)

continue hosting The

Benefits

Benefits

Allow me to point out something you've seen your whole life, though it may not have jumped out at you.

When you look at a person, you think of them as a man or a woman. (OK, there are exceptions, but those are beyond the scope of this point.) Humans are defined by their gender. You say. "Give that man a cigar," not "Give that human a cigar," Animals aren't defined by

"Give that human a cigar."

Animals aren't defined by
their gender, but by their species
and breed. "That stray German
shepherd looks hungry," or "My
Siamese cat knocked ever the
plant again." Gender isn't who
they are, it's just their reproductive system.

Lynetting this house.

tive system.

I mention this because whenever neutering is discussed, men tend to cross their legs, holding their knees tightly together as though by mystical transference their pet being neutered will somehow affect them.

I guarantee you, guys, it won't.
As stated, spaying (the surgery
for a female animal) and neuter-

The truth in Bob Barker's statement is unquestioned. Spaying and neutering does help control the pet population. We should be embarrassed by the everypoundation of pets in this country.

Don't forget, however, that they society. The animal just help society. The animal preciving them and their owners gain positive results as well.

Paraelic in intact (unspayed) animals. populations, but there are selfish reasons as well.

Animals getting these surgeries tend to get less cancer. I never have to describe mammary cancer to women, as they are trained about every aspect of the disease from an early age. Truly a terrillo disease, the mammary cancer rate is dramatically higher in intact (unspayed) animals.

Describing prostate cancer to men leads to the usual tightly crossed legs, as men never hear, or want to hear, about it (one reason human prostate cancer; or want to hear, about it (one reason human prostate cancer asuch a problem, but I digress).

While neutering doesn't seem to decrease prostate cancer rates, it does greatly decrease rates of perinal tumors, which are as unpleasant as they sound, and, of course, stops testicular tumors.

Infections of the uterus called

Infections of the uterus, called Infections of the uterus, called syometras, can best be described as a water balloon stretched to its limit with ketchup and mus-tard. The balloon is the uterus, the ketchup is blood, the mus-tard is pus in this analogy, and the condition is as life-threaten-ing as it is disgusting. Only emergency surgery can cure this. emergency surgery can cure this, although sometimes antibiotics can help for a while.

Hormones from the testicles acting on the prostate can cause prostatitis, which is a painful inflammation. The only real treatment involves surgery, although antibiotics might help here as well.

Few things worry pet owners more than having a pet hit by a car. When people race in to my clinic with the animal after its being hit, usually I find the animal intact. Testosterone can make you forget everything else except for that which has currently captured your interest.

With cats, being intact leads to increased roaming, and fighting, and spread of infectious diseases, like feline leukemia.

Eliminate all these problems

Eliminate all these problems and it's fairly obvious how a sim-ple surgery can lengthen an aniple surgery mal's life.

Concerns

Concerns Concerns doubt the danger of anesthetic? There's always some risk, just as there is always some risk in flying. When you do things like check blood chemistry values before the precedure, you can feel much more comfortable about the anesthetic safety.

Concerned about the price?

safety.

Concerned about the price?

Talk to your vet about what's included in the price of the pro-

pets toward a longer, happier life.

Dr. Brad Davis is the medical director for the VCA of Garden City, 2085 Inkster Road, Garden City, MI 48136. Feel free to write him there with questions and comments. He is also one of the hosts of the nationally syndicated radio show Animal Talk. Visit the Web site at www.Animaltalkradio.com You can send e-mail questions or comments & DrBrad@animaltalkradio.com



Lucky: Lucky, an eight-month-old Shepherd Mix female, would like to find a new home where she can receive plenty of attention and play time. Visit Lucky at the Michigan Humane Society Westland Shelter, 37255 Marquette.







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