



MatamataVeterinaryServices

## *Pet Care with Dr Susan Murray*



### **Desexing your pet**

The decision to desex your pet is an important one and it can be the single best decision for their long-term well-being.

#### Speying (females) and neutering (males):

- Prevents unwanted births
- Reduces the influence of hormones on your pet's behaviour
- Decreases the likelihood of them suffering from particular medical conditions
- **GIVES YOUR PET THE BEST CHANCE TO LEAD A LONGER, HAPPIER LIFE**

A spey or ovariectomy, is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus, while neutering or castration, is the removal of the testicles. These operations are performed with your pet under general anaesthesia to minimise pain and discomfort.

At MVS we use dissolvable sutures (meaning your pet does not require a repeat visit for removal of stitches), as well as multiple methods of pain relief.



**In seven years, cats that are not desexed can produce up to 781,250 kittens. This is what leads to the SPCA and animal shelters being overwhelmed. By desexing your cat you do your part to prevent this tragedy.**

#### Behavioural problems that can occur with 'entire' male and female pets include:

- Roaming
- Aggression
- Urine marking
- Territorial behaviour and fighting
- Excessive barking
- Mounting and other dominance related behaviours

In both cats and dogs, the longer you wait, the greater the risk you run of the surgery not reducing the unwanted behaviour because it is so ingrained in your pet's habits.

Some illnesses are also reduced by desexing. 'Entire' female cats and dogs have a far greater chance of developing pyometra (a life-threatening uterine infection), as well as uterine and mammary cancer. Neutered males eliminate their chances of getting testicular cancer and it is also thought they have lowered rates of prostate cancer.

We recommend desexing pets prior to the first heat and before they become sexually active at approximately 5-6 months old (although the surgery can be performed at a younger age). This reduces the risk of both medical and behavioural problems occurring. Desexing should also be considered for any pet with a behavioural problem regardless of age.

Please contact us on 07 888 8197 to discuss desexing your pet, or if you have any other questions.