

The following information was obtained directly from literature provided by the Watauga County Humane Society at yesterday's Spay-Neuter event at Boone K-mart.

Spaying and neutering pets is an easy way to help control the pet population- and it has benefits you may not have thought of.

Fixed dogs and cats are less likely to mark territory and spray inside houses, more gentle and affectionate, easier to train and much less likely to bite.

Spaying or neutering is a great way to keep your pet healthy. Fixed animals' urges to roam are reduced, therefore, they are less likely to run away, get into fights with wild animals, contract diseases from bite wounds and get hit by a car. Spaying and neutering even reduces or eliminates the occurrence of several serious health problems, including some cancers.

Fixed animals are also proven to live longer than unaltered pets. 80 percent of dogs hit by cars have not been spayed or neutered, and fixed dogs and cats, on average, live two to three years longer than unaltered pets.

Spaying and neutering does not make your pet fat and lazy, nor does it affect a dog's instinct to protect home and family. Male pets do not suffer any kind of emotional reaction when neutered, nor does the procedure affect his appearance or performance as a hunting dog or watchdog. It's necessary to neuter male pets- because it takes two to have a litter. Animals as young as 2-months-old can be sterilized. The procedure is safe and less expensive than you might think.

For more information, or to schedule a low-cost spay or neuter surgery for your pet, contact the Watauga County Humane Society at 828-264-7865.