**Bath Veterinary Hospital**

**POB 388**

**Bath NY 14810**

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**Why Neuter?**

Millions of unwanted dogs are destroyed each year in the United States. There are over 150 dogs euthanized each year in the community of Bath for the sole reason that homes could not be found for them. Who is responsible for the pet overpopulation problem? Dog owners, through indiscriminate breeding of their pets. This responsibility lies equally with the owners of male as well as female dogs.

Simply having a purebred dog does not mean you should breed it. Many of the ‘good homes’ you think you find for your puppies turn out to be just the opposite. Owners often abandon a puppy when it loses its ‘cuteness’ and the puppy passes from home to home - taking its behavior problems with it.

There are sound medical reasons for having dogs neutered. Unspayed females have an increased risk of uterine infections as well as uterine, ovarian and mammary cancers. Breeding is not a ‘money-maker’ as some people believe. A significant number of dogs require a Caesarian section in order to have their puppies, especially if they have been bred by larger males. Many times the puppies themselves require veterinary care, all of which adds trouble and expense.

Unneutered dogs have an increased risk of developing testicular cancer, prostatic infections and tumors, as well as tumors around their anus, often highly malignant ones. They can also develop hernias in this area. All of these problems are easily prevented by neutering at a young age.

Neutered dogs make better pets. They are more content to stay at home, not wandering to fulfill their sexual urges. Dogs at home are not out being hit by cars, being shot at, fighting, or picking up diseases and parasites from other dogs. Neutered dogs have fewer problems with aggression toward people and other dogs. Other dogs’ aggression is reduced toward a neutered dog.

Neutering can be performed as early as 4 months of age on both males and females. Such early age neutering has been shown to have no adverse effect on growth or on the development of personality. Early age neutering hasbeen shown to reduce the pet overpopulation problem and is being routinely performed at this age in veterinary hospitals and SPCA’s throughout the United States.

Neutering does not make a dog fat and lazy; too many calories and too little exercise do that.

If you are not planning on breeding your dog, it makes sense to have it neutered. You will be increasing your dog’s chances of a longer life, allowing it to be more content in your home as part of your family; and you will be helping out with the pet overpopulation problem in your area.