You have a great responsibility towards your pet. You must decide how to manage the reproductive life of your pet. If you do not, you will have problems.

**THERE ARE THREE MAIN MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT DESEXING DOMESTIC PETS THAT UNFORTUNATELY DISCOURAGE SOME PEOPLE FROM DOING THE RIGHT THING.**

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT:-

* Desexed animals (both male and female) are not aware of their loss of sexuality. It is quite wrong to believe that desexed pets feel deprived of sexual fulfillment. They don’t care. They are unaware. Their lives are simply less complicated if they do not have to reproduce.
* Pets that have been surgically neutered do not become excessively fat because they have been desexed. Many suburban dogs and cats suffer with health problems associated with excessive food and inadequate exercise. The nutritional needs of most animals decrease by as much as half when they finish growing. Their food intake should be cut down if they are getting overweight.
* The general quality of our veterinary care ensures a level of safety in operative procedures.

In older unspeyed female dogs and cats there is a serious risk of:-

1. Ovarian and Uterine diseases (eg pyometra – infected uterus)
2. Mastitis and Mammary Gland cancers
3. Hormonal disturbances (eg diabetes)

The longer the desexing operation is left, the more difficult it becomes. The best method of birth control is for a female dog to be desexed is about six months of age.

The advantages of desexing male cats and dogs:-

1. Prevent Wandering and Fighting. Entire males will search for females. Unfortunately many will have an encounter with a motor vehicle or other animals (with the same idea) leading to fights and a visit to the clinic.
2. Prevent Embarrassing Behaviour. Entire male dogs are more inclined to be aggressive in nature, “mate” on people’s legs or other objects, and mark territory with urine.
3. Prevent Male Diseases that can be influenced by testosterone.
	* Prostate Enlargement or Cancer
	* Hernias
	* Testicular Cancer
	* Perianal Cancer (tumours around the anus)
4. Cheaper Registration Rates for Desexed Dogs.

The best age for your male pet to be desexed is about six months.

The desexing operation is effective for the lifetime of your pet and is considered to be:-

* The safest form of contraception available
* The surest form of contraception available
* The least expensive form of contraception available

It is a well proven fact that desexed pets (both male and female) are much less likely to create a public nuisance than those that are entire. There can be no doubt that every extra unwanted litter of dogs or cats only adds to the existing pool of unowned, temporarily owned and irresponsibly owned pets in our community.