

A good reason to neuter

Some staggering statistics support the need to spay or neuter house pets such as dogs and cats.

reproduction rate. However, if the rate is only one tenth one per cent, there will still be 84,652 animals.

of the Gueph Humane Society, says spaying or neutering a pet dog or cat, "makes it easier on the pet owner."

spaying or neutering will help stop the overpopulation problem of pets.

According to Eunice Collins, manager of the Oakville Humane Society, the cumulative offspring of one dog or cat in a ten year period would total 84,652,641. That, of course, is if there is a 100 per cent

"You are doing the animal a service if you spay it," Mrs. Collins says. And whether it is a dog or cat, male or female, the animal becomes "a home-loving animal."
Gillian De La Franier, manager

A dog or cat in heat will scratch the doors to get out while all the male animals from miles around will come to the door. A neutered dog will have its tendency to wander diminished. Both managers agreed that

There is a myth concerning animals that a dog or cat that has been spayed or neutered will get fat. However, that is not the case, they say. A spayed or neutered animal needs less to eat than before the operation but still needs to get exercise.



Ginger is soothed by Terri MacCallum (left) and Barb Taylor prior to the operation.



Animal health technician Barb Taylor shaves the fur off Ginger's abdomen.



A tube is inserted down Ginger's throat.



Barb Taylor monitors the anesthetic unit while Terri MacCallum prepares another hypodermic.

A special Herald feature for

Be Kind To Animals Week

Stories By George Evashuk

Photos By George Evashuk and Bob Rutter

A simple, 20 minute operation

Six-month-old Ginger had an operation Monday morning that has irrevocably changed her life and in a not small way made your life more enjoyable.

Ginger is the gold haired pet dog of a Halton Hills family who decided to have her spayed.

The operation is a simple one. It was carried out by veterinarian Brian Buckrell.

For Ginger, it begins when she is placed on a table under the calm hands and soothing voices of Barb Taylor, a technician and Terri MacCallum, an assistant. Near the table is an anesthetic unit which she'll be connected to during the entire operation.

Dr. Buckrell entered the room to give Ginger a needle and the dog slumped into unconsciousness. Until this point the general atmosphere in the room had been one of calm. It remained relatively calm and the only sound Ginger makes above the soothing sounds of her hand-

lers is a single yelp when the needle goes in her forepaw.

Dr. Buckrell inserted a tube down her throat to forestall any emergencies which might arise, and Miss Taylor shaved Ginger's abdomen.

The operation Ginger will undergo is a complete ovario-hysterectomy. It is a major abdominal surgery and modern surgical techniques and a gaseous general anesthetic are used.

Dr. Buckrell says there are chemical methods of sterilizing a pet dog or cat which cost about the same as spaying "but if she misses the pill, she gets in heat again."

Not only are "these temporary things just not worthwhile," but there can be complicated problems in the future. An unspayed dog, for instance, has a 70 per cent chance of uterine infection at age two, he says.

Ginger was carried into the operating room and placed on a table. Miss Taylor hooks

up the anesthetic while the veterinarian scrubs up and gets into a disposable green surgical gown, hat, and gloves. Everyone in the operating room wears a surgical mask.

The table is tilted down to aid access to the organs and the operation begins when the vet marks out with a pair of clamps a three inch strip of the dog's abdomen.

Dr. Buckrell said by the time an animal is five or six months old, the sex organs have completed supplying hormones for the growth and development of the animal.

To some extent the dog has pain until the incision is fully healed—about two weeks—"but it makes a pet suitable for in town."

A spayed animal doesn't have the instinct to roam. Neutering a large male will reduce the tendency to wander and to display aggressiveness, he says.

"Getting your dog spayed is an investment in your pet

just like getting your car rustproofed."

From the time of the first incision until the last suture is stitched is about 15 minutes. In that time the veterinarian has located Ginger's ovaries and uterus, pulsed them out, clamped them off, and cut them away.

There is surprisingly little blood.

The operation is fairly simple with practice. The clinic operated by Dr. Buckrell and partner Dr. David McEwen do at most during the year about five or six a week, "not a large volume."

It is important for pet owners to realize its better to have dog or cat spayed before they go to heat, he says. Nor is there any need to let the animal have a litter, he says. "If they never had a (heat) cycle or a pregnancy, they never know."

However, the operation can be done as long as the animals is out of heat or within the first two weeks of

pregnancy. Dr. Buckrell says it is not recommended, "but sometimes there are reasons."

"Older animals have more complications."

Two rows of sutures are put in—one on the inside and the other to seal up Ginger's abdomen. The vet recommends the dog be kept subdued as much as possible for three or four days at home and the stitches will come out in 10 days.

Also recommended is not to let the pet drink excessively for the first few hours at home because in all the excitement, over consumption of water could lead to vomiting and diarrhea.

If Ginger follows true to form, she will be listless for the next few days. The doctors say this is a natural period of recuperation following stress and will aid in her return to normal.

With the last stitch in place, the operation is over. Ginger's abdomen is cleaned

and swabbed and she is carried out to the next room and placed on the floor to be watched until she revives—a period of about ten minutes.

The operation costs between \$35 and \$75 for dogs and about \$45 for cats. The variance in costs is based on a pre-operative examination, the anesthetic fee, which is based on the size, age and type of animals, and the surgical fee, which is influenced by the age of the pet and whether she is pregnant or in heat.

After a few minutes, the tube is removed from her throat and she is turned over. After a moment, she begins to stretch and her eyes open a little.

Soon she is on her hind quarters, her eyes more open, her demeanor more alert. She'll be at the clinic overnight and in the morning her owners will come to pick her up.

Now that she has been spayed, she'll never produce any unwanted puppies.



Veterinarian Dr. Brian Buckrell holds Ginger at the end of the operation.



Dr. Buckrell adjusts the sheet over Ginger in the operating room.



Dr. Buckrell displays Ginger's ovaries.



Stitching up the incision.

By DOROTHY McLEAN
Herald correspondent
Norval Presbyterian Church W.M.S. met at the home of Mrs. Harold McClure on Monday afternoon, April 24th, with Mrs. Tom McGee presiding. Mrs. Craig McClure read the scripture lesson followed with prayer by Mrs. Herb Anthony. The chapter from the study book "A Look at the Caribbean Economy" was given by Mrs. Clure Archdekin. Following the meeting Mrs. Sam McClure assisted the hostess in serving lunch. Union Presbyterian Church W.M.S. met at the home of the president, Mrs. Marjorie McDonald, on Wednesday morning May 3.

Following a cup of coffee the roll call was answered with a Mother's Day verse. Mrs. Eason read the scripture lesson and Mrs. Loraine Campbell led in prayer. Mrs. Eldred Anderson gave the message on Mothers. A hymn song was enjoyed after which Mrs. Francis Leslie gave the closing prayer. There were 9 tables in play at the Norval Euchre Club evening held on Thursday eve-

ning, May 4th, in the Norval School Community Centre. High score prizes won by the ladies were - Mariel Miller, first; and Donald Donaldson, second; and for the men - Vi Preston, first; and Doug McMillan, second. Mrs. Sinclair won the prize for the most lone hands and Bill Shaw won the bouquet of flowers in the lucky draw. The evening ended with lunch and a social time. The

next Euchre Night will be held on Thursday evening, May 18th. Everyone is welcome. It will be decided at the next Euchre whether to continue or a couple of more evenings in June before closing for the summer months. Norval Neighbours Club presented the president, Mrs. Dorothy McLean with a lovely African Violet plant on the occasion of her birthday on Wednesday, May 3rd.

Bingo, euchre and erokinole were enjoyed during the afternoon followed with a special lunch of home made fruit loaves. During the business it was decided that on the first Wednesday of every month a special birthday lunch be served for all those celebrating their birthdays that month. Other members having birthdays in May are - Mrs. Louie Alexander, Clare Wilson

Mrs. Ebel Webb and Mrs. Grace Crawford. An enjoyable evening for parents and friends of the Norval Brownies was held on Tuesday evening, May 2, at the Norval School Community Centre when the Brownies held their "Talent Night". A very interesting and entertaining program with Libby Strathdee as announcer was composed of a spiritual song sung by Christine Harris, Judy

Swezie, Melinda Arthey, and Kathy Timney. Melanie Heed recited a poem; Lynn Taylor and Susan Campbell did a baton twirling routine; Evelyn Hamilton and Connie Green recited a poem together; Julie Cunningham and Tammie McGregor sang a duet; Cathy Tull and Jana Steele performed a Disco dance; Laura Grookorth gave an ad for Levi's from a school song; the show Michelle Hedley played

an organ solo; Susan Taylor and Janet Strathdee performed a gymnastics routine; and Cathy Duffin told riddle jokes. A sing song ended the program. The Norval Brownies participated in the "Litter Chase" on Saturday, April 29th, and gathered 13 bags of garbage around the Village. The girls were treated by McDonald's, Georgetown, to a hamburger

and a drink following their hard work of cleaning up the litter. The Brownies have a busy schedule planned for the rest of May starting with a Father and Daughter Banquet on May 9th, a hike on the Bruce Trail on May 12th, and a baseball game with the Norval Cubs on May 16th. Mrs. Diane Taylor, Brown Owl for the past 3 years, and helping with the Brownies for the past 5 years, is retiring as Brown Owl but will continue to assist another leader. There are 21 little girls anxious to have a leader ready to start activities in the fall so if you are interested in helping with the Brownies they would like to know.

Norval district news