

## ***Should I have my pet spay/ neutered?***

Yes, if you do not plan on breeding your dog. You should ask your breeder what the recommended age of sterilization should be.

Many breeders today believe that you should wait to spay or neuter your dog until after their growth plates have closed. In mid size dogs, this is approximately 18 months of age. Toy dogs mature more quickly and giant breeds mature more slowly. Your breeder will give you proper guidance. They can also let you know if there are any types of anesthesia that have been known to cause a reaction in their breed.

If you chose to delay or not have your dog sterilized, you take on a great responsibility in ensuring that they do not reproduce without your knowledge. This means you must be a responsible dog owner and have your dog under constant supervision, especially female dogs that are in season. Typically, female dogs come into season every 6 months. They are breedable from approximately day 10 through day 21, however, there are exceptions where the season will be of shorter or longer duration.



***If all dogs were spayed or neutered, where would your next dog come from?***

DFOW is a volunteer organization.

Members include individual pet owners and breeders, dog clubs, veterinarians, and breed specific rescue volunteers.

DFOW works with elected officials to try to help with laws that make sense and do not cause hardship on responsible dog owners.

DFOW's membership base consists of the most knowledgeable people in Wisconsin in regards to dogs.

We can provide elected officials with substantiated materials regarding the proper way to raise dogs; why breed specific legislation, mandatory spay/neuter, and pet limits do not work, and why intrusive laws can actually create public health risks by driving people underground to protect their pets.



The Dog Federation of Wisconsin is registered with the State of Wisconsin for lobbying efforts. Our lobbyist is Gary Goyke.

Please notify DFOW if your community is considering revising their existing animal code.

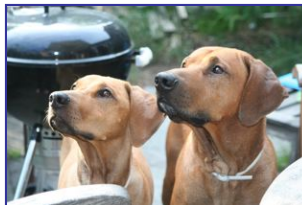
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## ***Dog Federation of Wisconsin***

### ***Educational Series***

### ***“Why Oppose Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws”***

*This brochure will explain why government mandated mandatory sterilization of dogs is wrong. It should be a personal decision made between the dog's owner and their veterinarian.*

***Why do some individuals believe that there should be a law to make people sterilize their dog?***

In certain areas of the United States, there are large populations of shelter dogs. Some people believe that if there was a law that everyone spay (ovariohysterectomy) or neuter (castrate) their dogs, it would take care of those problems.

***In Wisconsin, the demand for puppies is so great that shelters import them from out of state in order to meet the demand.***

Wisconsin citizens must be responsible dog owners for the most part as we seem to have a shortage of dogs in our State. People have listened to the benefits of spay/neuter and have either had their pets sterilized or they are ensuring that their dogs are not running at large.



Recent studies regarding pediatric spay/neuter show that while there may be some benefits to early sterilization, there are also increases in certain types of cancers, spay incontinence in female dogs, and increases in soft tissue injuries.

***Pediatric spay/neuter may be detrimental to the long term health of your dog.***

Spay/neuter surgeries are considered routine, but it is still **major surgery**. For females the surgery consists of removing the uterus and both ovaries. For males, the surgery consists of removing both testes and the associated epididymes. These surgeries are performed under anesthesia.



Anytime a living being is given anesthesia, there are risk factors that must be considered. For dogs that are owned by people who understand these risks, they will ask the veterinarian to perform a full blood panel workup before subjecting their pet to surgery.

When a female dog is sterilized, they stop producing estrogen and progesterone. When a male dog is sterilized the stop producing testosterone. Many dog owners believe that young dogs need these hormones to physically develop properly. If they do not plan on breeding their dog, they will have their pet sterilized after the dog's growth plates have closed.

***Some owners prefer not to have their dogs sterilized. This is a personal decision that should not be subject to governmental intervention.***

***To spay or neuter should be a decision made between a dog owner and their veterinarian.***

Most people within a government agency or national animal rights organization are not veterinarians. These people are not qualified to give medical opinions, yet that is what a Mandatory Spay/Neuter ordinance is—a medical opinion that ALL dogs must be sterilized before 6 months of age. Sometimes there are allowances for dogs competing in licensed events. They do not take into consideration dogs that are being trained

for service purposes such as search and rescue.



These dogs are an asset to society and should be bred in order to produce offspring that will continue to benefit mankind.

The agencies do not know your dog's medical history. Your veterinarian does. These agencies do not understand why people may wish to keep their dogs intact as they have not done the research that a dedicated/responsible dog owner have.

***Research links on early spay/neuter:***

- <http://www.akcchf.org/pdfs/whitepapers/3-23-08DiscoveriesArticle.pdf>
- <http://www.caninesports.com/SpayNeuter.html>
- <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/spayneut.html>