

J.F. Moloney  
& ASSOCIATES

marks  
farm

VETERINARY CENTRE  
Winter 2007/8

# News

## a word from the boss.... **To spay or not to spay?**

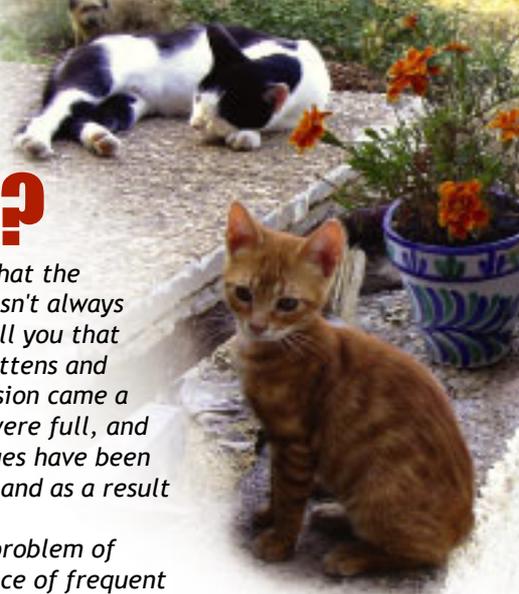
Most people take it for granted nowadays that the pets we keep should be neutered, but it wasn't always so. Twenty-five years ago, any vet would tell you that there were countless unwanted litters of kittens and puppies. With this animal population explosion came a major stray animal crisis. Rescue shelters were full, and found it hard to cope. Thankfully these issues have been very successfully addressed over the years, and as a result animal welfare has improved dramatically.

We spay our female pets to avoid the problem of uncontrolled breeding, and the inconvenience of frequent heat seasons in bitches (and even more frequent "calling" in cats), **but are you aware of the facts?**

**Cats** Within 2 weeks of having kittens, will come on heat and try to get pregnant again. Un-neutered males, as well as spraying unwelcome scents, tend to have a shorter life expectancy due to the spread of infection through fighting.

**Dogs** Up to 50% of unspayed bitches, who have not had pups, will eventually develop pyometra, a life-threatening womb infection. If a bitch is spayed before her first season, the likelihood of her developing mammary tumours (breast cancer) is 15 times less than the rate for unspayed bitches. Neutering of male dogs can be very beneficial in dealing with anxiety or aggression, and will obviously prevent several diseases associated with excessive testosterone in later life.

**So is there any reason not to neuter?** Well, nothing is ever perfect in life, and it is a fact that spayed bitches, while they tend to have healthier lives, run a slightly increased risk of developing urinary incontinence. This can easily be controlled, by putting a small amount of medicated liquid in their food. Also, both male and female dogs can undergo some metabolic changes, which may mean that a few gain weight more easily. In the first six months after surgery, it is crucial to be careful with calorie intake, and to monitor our pets' weight very closely. After that it usually becomes much less of a problem. Cats on the other hand rarely have any side-effects after neutering. For them it's a simple, safe and very reliable solution. As always, we are happy to answer any of your queries, so please call our staff at the veterinary centre.



## Dogs Help Cats

A glorious sunny Sunday on September 23rd, perfect for a spot of dog walking, and all in aid of two very worthwhile local charities.

**Moor End Cat Shelter** Josie Oliver and Marianna Robertson, two extremely dedicated ladies, provide a sanctuary for many cats in need of a home.

**BUDS** (Braintree & Uttlesford Special Needs Play Scheme) This group of volunteers look after children with special needs, allowing the parents some time for themselves.

So at 10.30am staff, friends and pets, 18 walkers (with boots) and 12 dogs (at an advantage with four legs) set off from Marks Farm Veterinary Centre to take in the autumn air in the beautiful Essex countryside. The villages of Lindsell and Stebbing were visited, (as was the pub for a swift half) and as you can see from the pictures a good time was had by all. We brought packed lunches, which were very kindly stored in John's car and delivered to us at feeding time.

Back at the surgery after mud was cleaned from feet and paws, we had 12 miles under our belts. We are very pleased to have raised just over £1,800 for Moor End and BUDS. So a big **THANK YOU** to all walkers, sponsors and lunch bringers, for all your time and effort to help these charities continue their good work.



Mud Flo



Sponsored swim?



Not sharing?

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