BITCH SPAY, PROS & CONS

To spay or not to spay. Most people once they get a bitch have already decided to neuter / spay her. Some may not be sure and others do not get around to it. Many unspayed bitches, in spite of the best intentions of the owners, nature having it’s way, get mated. That involves either the bitch getting loose, or a male breaking in.

By spaying a bitch, "Seasons" or heats are abolished, which means that a bitch will be more contented & less likely to wander. The risk of unwanted pregnancies is removed and false pregnancies stop.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The operation involves, a general anaesthetic, removal of uterus (womb) and ovaries through an incision in middle of the abdomen (tummy), where the body wall is thinnest. Recovery from the anaesthetic is quick. She is given pain killing medication, analgesics, and generally can go home on the same day.

She will have stitches which will be taken out later. Please note, we will not spay a bitch when she is in heat, as it can lead to surgical complications, so the risk to her life can be much greater

PROS

1. Eliminates unwanted breeding & having to find homes for litters of pups.
2. Eliminates bitch coming into heat & attracting the male dog population of the area to your house for 2 weeks, twice a year.
3. Eliminates the risk of pyometra, a life-threatening infection of the uterus, common in older bitches.
4. Greatly reduces the risk of bitch developing mammary tumours (breast cancer) if done when bitch is young (before the first season or after only one or two seasons)

CONS

1. Operation is irreversible. You cannot change your mind at a later stage if you decide that you do want to breed a litter.
2. Some bitches have a tendency to gain weight after spaying. This can generally be addressed by dietary means, and it is preferable to try and prevent weight gain than tackling the problem when the bitch has become very overweight.
3. Some spayed bitches (approx. 4 to 5%) may develop a degree of urinary incontinence in later life. There are medications available which are quite successful in addressing this issue should it arise.

If you wish to have your bitch spayed, or to discuss it with one of our staff, please phone Village Veterinary Hospital, we will be glad to assist you.