



MAINE VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

97A Exchange Street, Suite 305, Portland, ME 04101

Phone: 800-448-2772 • Fax: 800-448-2772

www.mainevetmed.org

June 11, 2020

Dear MVMA Member,

The Maine Veterinary Medical Association Board of Directors endorses the position of the AVMA, AAHA, AAFP, and other veterinary and humane organizations concerning the age at which cats should be spayed or neutered to be five months of age, or prior to the first estrous cycle.

Several factors support this decision:

- Spaying/neutering of felines reduces the number of unwanted cats and kittens surrendered to shelters.
- Female cats benefit from spaying at five months instead of six months. The MVMA recognizes the scientific data showing that mammary cancer risk is reduced when spaying is performed before the first estrous cycle.
- Neutering male cats before puberty reduces many undesirable behaviors such as urine marking and aggressive behavior. Additionally, roaming behaviors which can result in injuries and diseases are reduced in neutered male cats.
- Spaying/neutering of felines before puberty reduces behaviors that commonly result in relinquishment of a pet to the shelter.

Practitioners can visit www.felinefixbyfive.org to access articles dedicated to this topic, list their clinic(s) as participants, as well as obtain educational materials for display in their clinic(s).

The webinar “Optimal Age for Spay Neuter” is available at www.hsvma.org/archivedwebinars for more information.

Sincerely,

Janelle Tirrell, DVM

MVMA President