

Results of Six-Month Spay/Neuter on First Impound Survey at Austin Animal Center

September 22, 2016

Purpose: To find out how many stray, impounded dogs are reclaimed by owners who decline on the option to have their pet spayed or neutered prior to reclaim. Information gathered included age, sex and breed or type of dog as well as reasons owners declined to have their pet spayed or neutered.

During the six-month period (March 17 – September 9):

Impounded dogs: 3,847

Impounded for the first time and not spayed or neutered: 3,002

Percentage of first-time impounded dogs unsterilized: 78 percent

First-time impounded dogs spayed or neutered and then returned to owners: 407

First-time impounded dogs returned to owners not spayed or neutered: 209

Of 209 dogs released unsterilized:

- 94 declined to have their pet spayed or neutered
- 24 were declined due to medical problems by AAC vets
- 16 reclaimed by paying a spay/neuter deposit for later surgery
- 63 were returned with Emancipet vouchers for later sterilization
- The rest were either reclaimed by rescue or had owners who said dog was already spayed

Of the unsterilized dogs returned to owners intact, seven returned on second impound.

Of the 94 owners who declined spay/neuter:

- 34 percent stated they planned to breed their pet
- 18 percent said they wanted their pet back today
- 15 percent said they believed spay/neuter is unhealthy for their pet
- 14 percent said they believe spay/neuter will change their pet's personality
- 10 percent said they don't believe in sterilization
- 10 percent said their pet is elderly or has a medical condition

Of the total number of dogs returned unsterilized, approximately 30 percent were identified by their owners as breeds or mixes who would be at risk in the shelter.

Estimate of total number of owners declining spay and neuter in a year: approximately 200

Estimate of total number of owners who decline and plan to breed: approximately 70