Benefits to Neutering (Castrating) male dogs & puppies:

Other than population, there are lots of very good reasons to neuter (remove the testicles) from male dogs. They basically fall into one of two categories - either behavior or medical. Regardless of which category we are talking about, most of the unwanted characteristics or conditions are caused by the male hormone testosterone, which is produced within the testicle.

Behavior advantages of neutering

**Decreased Aggression**: One of the most important behavioral advantages of castration is that as adults, these dogs will tend to be less aggressive both towards other male dogs and also people. The androgen (male) hormones, of which testosterone is the most important, are responsible for the development of many behavioral patterns.

**Decreased Roaming:** A second behavioral advantage of neutering is that these dogs will not "roam" when they sense a female in heat. Male dogs can sense a female in heat through pheromones. These are airborne chemical attractants that are liberated from the female when she is cycling. They travel through the air for great distances. If dogs are neutered at an early age, they will not sense or respond to pheromones, and would certainly be less stressed and tend to stay home.

Medical Advantages

The medical advantages are numerous and even more significant. Again, all are caused by the effects of testosterone on the body or are physical problems that arise within the testicles themselves.

**No Testicular Tumors:** There are several different tumor types, both benign and malignant, that arise within the testicle. As with most cancers, these usually are not noted until the animal reaches 5 or more years of age. Therefore, these would not be a problem in those individuals castrated at the recommended age.

**Improved Genetics:** We all agree that a male carrying a harmful genetic trait like hip dysplasia or epilepsy should be neutered. We must do all that is possible to prevent the spread or continuation of these conditions and others like them.

**Fewer Hernias:**  A hernia is a protrusion of an organ or parts of an organ or other structure through the wall of a cavity that normally contains it. Perianal hernias occur when the colon, urinary bladder, prostate, or fat protrude from the abdominal cavity, go through the muscular wall by the anus and lie under the skin. These types of hernia are far more common in older, unneutered male dogs. The level of testosterone and other hormones appear to relax and weaken the group of muscles near the anus. Left untreated, these organs may become damaged, unable to function or even die from loss of blood supply. Additionally, because of the displacement of organs into this area, the animal may not be able to defecate or urinate correctly.

**Fewer Perianal Tumors:**  These are tumors whose growth is stimulated by testosterone. These occur near the anus and are called perianal adenomas (benign) or perianal adenocarcinomas (malignant). They require surgical treatment and should be caught early in their development to prevent reoccurrence. These tumors and the above hernia are very rare in those castrated at 7-8 months of age.

**Fewer Prostate problems:** The most common medical problems eliminated from dogs neutered at an early age are those involving the prostate. Over 80% of all unneutered male dogs develop prostate disease. Prostate conditions such as benign enlargement, cysts, and infections are all related to the presence of testosterone.

