

To the editor

Each week [we][our organization] get calls for help regarding cats: people complaining about them, people not able to afford to feed their own, people needing other resources such as for vet care, wanting to find homes for kittens, and so on and on.

The bottom line is that there are too many kittens born for the number of good homes that can care for them well for their normal 15 year life span. There is a simple answer: cats need to be spayed or neutered ('altered' or 'fixed') before their first heat – by five months of age so they will never have litters. In time the number of cats will go down - to a number that can find good, loving homes.

**There is confusion about when to spay or neuter cats.** Most people don't know what is the best age. Often veterinarians tell them to wait till six months, since that was the old way. However, we now know that if people wait until after five months cats can develop certain forms of cancer (mainly mammary gland tumors), they develop behaviors such as howling, fighting, litter box problems and – yes, they have litters if allowed outdoors. [Actually a brother and sister from the same litter can also produce a litter]

People who like or love cats can help by spreading the word in every way to Fix Felines by Five Months. This can be done at the conclusion of the series of kitten vaccines, by 20 weeks of age. This is a great way to help solve feline problems, and doesn't cost a cent. Thanks to everyone who helps!

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