



Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association, Inc.

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January 21, 2020

The Mississippi 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 position:

- 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 as do other female animals. 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 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. Cats neutered before puberty are less likely to exhibit undesirable behaviors secondary to sex hormones. This also makes it more likely for cats to remain with their owners long term as many cats are surrendered to shelters due to these behaviors.

Practitioners can visit www.felinefixbyfive.org to access articles dedicated 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent E. Hollifield DVM".

Kent E. Hollifield, DVM
MVMA President