



SPAY/NEUTER IS ESSENTIAL TO YOUR PET PIG'S WELL BEING



If you're considering a mini pig for your household and still debating the merits of spay/neuter, you should also consider whether you have time, energy and money to care for a dozen piglets, deal with hormone-induced pig attacks, or make a run to the vet for a potentially fatal case of pyometra.

Every mini pig rescue at MPFL is spayed or neutered after intake, and isolated until this critical first step is complete. Why? Just for starters, females can reach sexual maturity as early as 10 weeks of age, and males as early as 6 weeks. A litter can be a dozen or more. And all of these new adorable squeakers are capable of having their own babies within weeks!

With thousands of mini pigs abandoned every year, to end up at auction, in shelters, rescues or much worse, population control is the obvious and primary reason for mini pig owners to alter, or spay/neuter, their pigs. Rescues and sanctuaries are overloaded with mini pigs that have been abandoned, injured, or rehomed and in many cases are unable to accept additional intakes. Spay/neuter is an important means of addressing the epidemic of unwanted mini pigs.

Health

If the plight of pet pigs at large isn't sufficient, failure to alter your mini pig has health consequences that could be life threatening. Intact female pigs are at high risk of developing reproductive cancers, including ovarian, mammary, and uterine. These cancers will shorten or end their lives. Treatment is risky and expensive and comes with no guarantees.

Additionally, only unaltered female pigs are subject to pyometra - a life-threatening condition that causes hormonal anomalies and uterine infection. Pyometra can cause the uterus to swell and, if untreated, rupture. Unspayed females also are at higher risk for ovarian cysts, uterine lesions and endometrial hyperplasia, which is characterized by abnormal uterine bleeding and can lead to cancer.

While intact females have a higher percentage of reproductive health issues, intact males, or boars, also are prone to cancers, including testicular cancers.

Behavior

Unaltered pet pigs just aren't much fun. Raging hormones can lead to unpredictable and aggressive behavior that manifests suddenly, turning your mini into a monster without notice.



Boars are known for aggressive behavior toward other pigs, pets and people. There's more. Some behaviors may be as seemingly benign as "humping" pillows, sofas and chairs, or as repulsive as ejaculation and a strong musky odor left behind on objects of the boar's affection. They are more likely to mark their territory, leaving behind a strong urine odor. Other hormone-driven issues include a tendency to wander in search of a piggy partner, and more rapid tusk growth, which requires more frequent attention from your vet or farrier.

Female pigs cycle into heat every 21 days, during which they may appear to be incontinent, destructive, and generally very moody. Females may become abusive toward housemates, including pig parents and other pets - mounting, humping and fighting with anyone who becomes an outlet for their frustration.

These behaviors may seem natural and benign when your baby girl or boy exhibits them, but they are quite dangerous as the pig matures to full size, often 150 lbs or more. Even the best behaved and most trained piggies cannot command their hormones nor comprehend the consequences of biting, lunging and charging in a hormonal rage. You must do this for them.

Risk

Our experience at My Pig Filled Life, after altering hundreds of mini pigs, is that the benefits of a spay/neuter by a pig-experienced veterinarian vastly outweigh the risks. Older pigs and those with health issues, such as obesity, are at greater risk from a surgical procedure and the accompanying anesthesia. But these pigs also have greater risk of developing cancerous growths that can be eliminated with alteration, and risk factors can be addressed through action such as a weight-loss cycle prior to surgery.

When you make the right choice to spay or neuter your piggy, consult a mini pig experienced veterinarian, and follow his/her advice on the best method for transitioning your little monster to little angel, and for surgical after care. Even better, and easier on your time and your wallet, adopt from MPFL to ensure that your new family member that has been spayed or neutered. Read about the [advantages of mini pig adoption](#), and [get started today!](#)