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Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship

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Controversies in the Veterinary Industry

Assessment 3 - Research

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**Subject:** Veterinary Sciences

**MLA citation:**

Cargill, John and Susan Thorpe-Vargas. "The Ethics and Responsibilities of Spaying and Neutering." *Dog World*, vol. 83, no. 2, Feb. 1998, p. 58. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=49847](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=49847).

**Assessment:**

Many topics in the veterinary field are constantly debated upon by veterinarians with no end in sight. One of the most common topics is whether or not spaying and neutering is beneficial or detrimental and what age is best for these surgeries. Studying controversies such as this will be helpful in not only further understanding important aspects of the veterinary field but also to develop a unique and distinguished viewpoint of topics of conversation in the veterinary industry.

In the article, "The Ethics of Responsibilities of Spaying and Neutering", it discussed many topics and sides of this issue. Learning about the ethical standpoints both supporting and opposing this argument opened up a new topic of possible research into issues in the veterinary

world such as humane euthanasia and breeding. Additionally, researching viewpoints over this issue was beneficial in developing personal viewpoints and opinions about this topic.

The article also discussed the financial aspect of this issue. This prompted some new ideas and revelations over funding for veterinary clinics, shelters, and spay and neuter facilities. Understanding how to finance a veterinary clinic or shelter could be very useful information in future careers. After discussing finances, the article delved into the social issues related to the topic. This reinforced a previous realization that purebred dogs are more highly regarded than mixed breeds or mutts. Additionally, discussing social issues of a topic as controversial as this prompted some thought about different ways to help decrease the overpopulation of dogs.

Moving forward, the article discussed the medical ramifications of pediatric ovariohysterectomies and orchiectomies. Understanding people's reasons for concern with pediatric spays and neuters will be beneficial in thinking proactively as a veterinarian and knowing things such as studies or research articles that will help to put their minds at ease on this topic. Additionally, being able to understand the medical side of this issue will be useful knowledge when discussing these procedures with professionals of the field and asking their opinions.

Another topic of debate in this article has to do with breeders and the American Kennel Club. It was shown in this article that breeders and the American Kennel Club are two reasons why some pet owners will not spay or neuter their animals. Breeders, for instance, do not spay or neuter in order to produce more litters and the American Kennel Club only lets purebred dogs compete in some divisions and competitions if they are intact. This discussion brought to light some ideas about regulating the number of litters breeders and puppy mills can produce and

changing rules of the American Kennel Club competitions to accommodate for safer and healthier dogs.

Overall, this article was beneficial in learning about all sides of an argument so that educated and well thought out responses can be planned in advance to aid in becoming a more professional and well-rounded student. Additionally, it reopened the research path directed on veterinarian's role in the rescue industry. Understanding the reasoning behind concerns about spaying and neutering will be beneficial in the future as a veterinarian to have discussions with clients about this topic and have a working understanding of it.