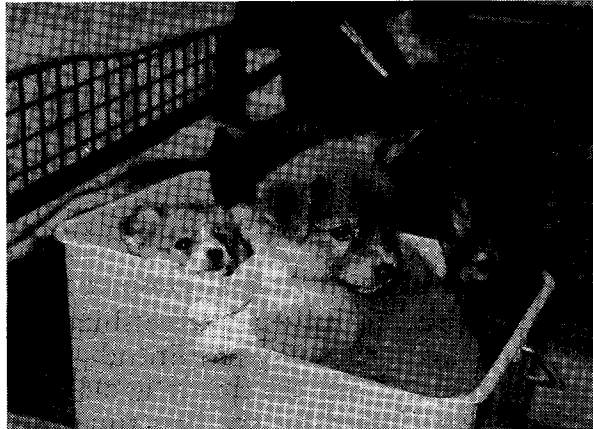


## 悲惨な悪循環をなくす為の 2ヶ月からの不妊手術の実施

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「うちの猫じゃないんですけど、毎日やって来る猫にえさをやっていたら、子供を産んでしまって、子猫を連れて来るようになってしまったんです。不妊手術をして欲しいんですけど。」今日もこんな電話がかかってきました。電話をかけてきた本人は、猫を飼っているつもりは無いのかもしれませんが、食べ物猫に与え続けるのなら、猫の排泄物と子猫については責任があると自覚して欲しいものです。以前は、母猫に不妊手術をして、「子猫も6ヶ月くらいになったら、必ず連れてきてくださいね。」と頼んでいたのですが、そう言っても、「気がついたら子猫がまた子供を産んじゃったんです。」とか、「子猫のほうはいつの間にかいなくなったんですよ。」などと言われてがっかりしてしまうことがほとんどでした。残念ながら、こんなふうにして生まれ育った子猫は、人にさわられることを極端に嫌い、人間に食事の催促はしても、抱かれることは大嫌いという猫に育ってしまいます。やがて成長すると、またどこかで、優しいけれど物事を深く考えない人間のスポンサーを見つけ、同じようなパターンで繁殖を繰り返してしまう危険があります。1988年に、米国のSPCAの報告で、子犬や子猫の不妊手術は、良い影響はあっても、問題はまったく無いと言う報告を読み、その時ちょうど保護していたオスメス2匹の子犬に手術を試みて以来、私の長年の悩みは解決しました。母猫と一緒に子猫も連れて来てもらい、手術してしまえば良いのです。子犬・子猫は生後2ヶ月位から不妊手術が可能です。慣れないうちは、子宮を捜すのがちょっと難しかったですけど、10頭も経験すれば慣れてしまい、使う薬は少量で済むし、出血がとても少ないので手術時間も短くて済むし、術後の回復は早いし、だから手術料金も割引できるし、と良いことずくめです。10年前に初めて手術をした2匹は、その後の経過に責任を持つためずっと私の手元にいますが、その後もパピートレーニングや、歯磨きを毎日し続けたらどの位良い結果が出るか、などの実験に協力してくれ、数え切れないほどの訪問活動やしつけ教室の見本にモデルとして出てくれ、今も元気です。特に、オスのマー君については、他の犬にけんかを売ったり、室内でマーキングをしよう心配をせず、どこにでも連れて歩けたのは、早期の去勢のおかげと強く感じています。



## Neutering Puppies and Kittens Preventing the Cycle of Misery

by Ayako Kakinuma  
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“I've been feeding a stray cat that comes around every day, and now that she's had kittens, she brings them around for food as well. Could I bring her in to be neutered?” Today again we received just such a phone call. The person who made it does not consider herself a pet owner, but she should realize that feeding an animal every day makes her responsible for it in other ways as well, such as cleaning up after it and caring for its young. Formerly in such cases, we would neuter the mother first, and request the person to bring in the kittens for neutering as well when they are six months old. Too often, however, the six months would pass only for the person to report that

the kittens had already given birth to litters of their own, or that they had stopped coming for food and were nowhere to be found.

Unfortunately, kittens born to stray mothers grow up extremely wary of human beings. Although they will come around to be fed, they will never allow themselves to be touched, much less picked up and held. When they grow up, the lucky ones eventually find themselves

sponsors of their own: people who are kind enough to feed them, but who give little thought to the consequences of their actions. The second generation gives birth to a third generation, and the cycle is repeated. The unlucky ones, of course, are picked up by the pound and exterminated, or starve to death, or are run over by cars.

Thus it was with great relief that I read in a 1988 report by the U.S. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that neutering, while having beneficial consequences, has no ill effects when performed on puppies and kittens.

Here was the solution to my dilemma of many years: I immediately neutered two 2 month old stray puppies—a male and a female—that were in my care at the time, and have followed this practice ever since. Today, when I receive calls like the one introduced at the beginning of this article, I tell the caller to bring in the young for neutering together with the mother.

With females, it was a bit difficult to locate the uterus at first, but after about ten operations I knew exactly where to look. And there are numerous advantages to operating on immature animals: the amount of drugs required is greatly reduced, as is blood loss, which means the operation takes less time to perform, and recovery is much faster, all of which contribute to lower costs as well.

The first two puppies I neutered, ten years ago now, have remained in my care as I felt responsible for following their progress. They went through puppy training, and cooperated with various experiments of mine, such as seeing the effects of daily toothbrushing. I have taken them out on countless public outings, for animal welfare activities and to serve as models for dog training classes, and they remain healthy to this day. With regard to Mah, the male, the fact that I could take him everywhere without ever worrying about his fighting with other dogs or urinating indoors to mark territory, is something in particular for which I strongly credit his being neutered at an early age.

### お詫びと訂正

前回の「FIV（猫免疫不全ウイルス感染症）と避妊・去勢手術の因果関係」の記事の中に、間違いがありましたので訂正致します。

FIVは、母子感染をしないとお話しましたが、最新の情報では胎盤感染や産道での感染があることがわかっています。しかし、生まれる前に感染していた子猫は、死産もしくは生まれて数週間～数カ月以内に死亡してしまうことなので、生後まもなく元気な子猫がFIV陽性と反応が出た場合は、生まれてから何らかの理由でFIVに感染してしまったということになります。