

Animal sterilisation marathon in Du Noon

CHANTAL ERASMUS

In a three day sterilisation marathon in Du Noon, vets and volunteers neutered over 200 dogs.

The mass sterilisation which took place from Wednesday March 4 to Friday March 6 was successful, according to Yael Fialkov from African Tails, an NGO that strives to curb the overpopulation and suffering of dogs in townships such as Du Noon and Joe Slovo.

African Tails, in conjunction with the Animal Rescue Organisation, gathered enough volunteers for the three day sterilisation drive.

Ms Fialkov said that not only were the animals sterilised to keep them from having multiple pregnancies, but also for their health.

"Repeated pregnancies cause unnecessary strain on the female dog's body. Unsterilised females face an increased risk of breast cancer.

"Uterine infections are common in unsterilised females. An animal's personality will not change if it is sterilised - sterilised dogs are just as effective watchdogs and are as loyal and reliable as before sterilisation," she said.

African Tails funds sterilisations every week in Du Noon and Joe Slovo. To date they have success-



■ Vet, Jiten Magan operates on a female dog at the DuNoon sports complex where over 200 dogs were sterilised last week.

fully sterilised over 500 dogs.

They feed over 150 township dogs every day in these areas. So far African Tails have rescued over 150 puppies and dogs from townships, giving them a second chance.

"The process includes a site visit, official documentation and ensuring that the dog is sterilised,

healthy and up-to-date with all vaccinations."

African Tails is focusing on educating the urban public about the situation in the townships as well as educating the township communities about proper animal care through weekly sessions with volunteers. African Tails depend

solely on donations for the work they do, Ms Fialkov said and the more they get the more animals can be saved. You can contact Janna Joseph 082 441 9370 or Yael Fialkov 082 422 1553 or Neil Ismay 082 563 8726, or emailcontact@african-tails.co.za or visit www.africantails.co.za

Why sterilise your pet?

- It reduces the risk of chronic uterine infections, mammary tumors are reduced by about 90% if done before first heat.
- Sterilisation prevents diabetes and testicle cancer as well as weight gain, it calms pets down and curbs roaming.
- An un-neutered male dog is more likely to stray if he can smell a female in heat - she doesn't have to be next door, she might be miles away, he will try his utmost to get to her. Dogs have been known to throw themselves at glass doors. Once the male is out, he might be hit by a car, attacked by another dog, or picked up and put in a shelter.
- Sterilisation enables your animal to be a better pet, healthier and more content.
- Sterilisation does not reduce the happiness or character of your pet, neutered dogs tend to live an average of two to three years longer than unneutered dogs.
- If you can't afford standard vet sterilisation rates, contact animal welfare clinics and organisations for more affordable rates. Contact the SPCA on 021 700 4140 or Animal Rescue Organisation on 021 391 5511 or the Animal Anti Cruelty League on 021 534 6426/7.