Dr. Jeffrey Young graduated from Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. He established Planned Pethood Plus, Inc (PPP) in 1990. PPP is best known for its low-cost mobile neutering services, Native American Reservation work, and training of veterinarians from around the world in more efficient surgical techniques. Dr. Young has served on numerous Human Society boards and has been an advisor from mobile surgical units all across America. He has founded his own non-profit group called Planned Pethood International. Planned Pethood International was established to help fund spay/neuter work and veterinary training from its new state of the art veterinary hospitals in Bratislava, Slovakia and Merida, Mexico. Dr. Young believes his human ethics come from being an Animal Control Officer during his veterinary college training. He is most proud of having personally sterilized over 165,000 animals in the last 20 years, and he is an outspoken proponent of early age neutering for companion animals population control. Dr. Young is driven by a simple underlying mission “to significantly reduce companion animal overpopulation throughout the world.”

“Think Globally Act Locally “
Five Free Freedoms

• Freedom from hunger
• Freedom from fear and distress
• Freedom from pain, injury and disease
• Freedom from discomfort
• Freedom to express normal behavior

Improvise * Adapt * Overcome
The Controversy is Over: Prepubertal Neutering is the Surgery of Choice

- Ideal age for neutering adoption animals is 4-16 weeks
- Ideal age for neutering owned animals 16-20 weeks
- 10% of veterinarians in U.S. do prepubertal neuters
- As young as 24 hours
- 5-6 weeks most common
History of Prepubertal Neutering

- Prepubertal surgeries were done in the early 1900s, and known as the “bloodless spay”
- 1974 - Medford, Oregon USA 100% of companion animals are neutered prior to adoption
- **Birthplace** of modern day prepubertal neutering
- 1987 - Leo Lieberman D.V.M. published article in JAVMA *A Case For Neutering Pups and Kittens at 2 Months of Age*
- Leiberman considered by many to be the father of prepubertal neutering
- 1989 - Planned Pethood Plus Dr. Young meets Dr. Lieberman and does survey of prepubertal surgeries
- Dr. Young has neutered over 40,000 prepubertal animals
- 1991 - University of Florida conducts first controlled study comparing neutering at 7 weeks vs 7 months of age
The Cold Harsh Facts

- 30% - 60% of adopting owners Do Not abide by spay/neuter contracts
- Humane societies provide 25% - 30% of companion animals to households each year
- Dogs are 15 times and cats 45 times more prolific than humans
- Around 80 million dogs and 96 million cats and countless millions of feral/stray cats in America alone

There are Things Worse Than Death

- >87% of cats and >76% of dogs in households today have been neutered; however, 20% produce at least one litter prior to being sterilized
- 70% Rule???
- Number 1 cause of death for companion animals remains euthanasia
- Intact street dogs live on average < 3 years and intact feral cats live on average < 2 years, by fixing and vaccinating street animals you can double their life span
Prepubertal Neutering an Important Tool

- No puppy or kitten should be adopted prior to 8 weeks of age
- Sterilized pets can never reproduce
- What percent of intact animals have passed through your doors?
- Can we demand something from the public that we do not demand from ourselves
- Sheltering and euthanizing companion animals are not cost effective ways to reduce companion animal overpopulation
- Dogs bonding period best between 8-12 weeks
- Cats socialization period best at 6-9 weeks
The Veterinary Profession

- What age and why – ask your vet (6-8 months standard)
- AVMA has endorsed the practice of prepubertal neutering since 1993
- Animal people are good clients
- Use your financial influence
- Educate your veterinarian
- Science vs Tradition – Correlation vs Causation
- Supply vs Demand
Prepubertal Neutering has Wide Support

- AAHA American Animal Hospital Association
- ACA Alley Cat Allies
- AHA American Humane Association
- American Kennel Club
- ASPCA American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- AVAR American Veterinarians for Animal Rights
- AVMA American Veterinary Medical Association – July 1993 resolution of support
- HSUS Humane Society of the United States
- Planned Pethood International
- Cornell University and UC-Davis
- ISAR International Society for Animal Rights
- CFA Cat Fanciers Association
- MSPCA Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- NACA National Animal Control Association
- NHES National Humane Education Society
- SOS Save Our Strays
- Spay USA
- Animal Control Director’s Association
- California Vet. Med. Association
- Florida State University
- Colorado State University

Bob Christianson of Save Our Strays estimates only 10% of veterinarians nationally perform early-age spay/neuter and was startled to find that many animal shelters with public spay/neuter clinics are not practicing prepubertal neutering.
Humane Organizations

- **Warehousing** companion animals will never solve the overpopulation issue
- **Must** ensure no adopted animal will ever reproduce
- **Must** have an active educational campaign
- **Must** look to the future in behavioral modification and counseling
- **Must** not except euthanasia as the cornerstone of population control – *there are things worse than death*
- **Must** have a neutering program
- **Must** have an active feral/stray cat program

Our Feline friends average 2.1 litters/year and 4.5 kittens per litter

Feral kittens are primary source of overpopulation
Prepubertal Concerns

Positive Affects

- Behavioral
- Medical Benefits (Cancer Reduction)
- Live Longer
- Don’t Reproduce

Negative Affects

- Obesity
- Urinary Incontinence
- Thyroid
- FUS/FLUTD
- Secondary Sex Characteristics

Medical Benefits

- Cancer Reduction

Negative Affects

- Obesity
- Urinary Incontinence
- Thyroid
- FUS/FLUTD
- Secondary Sex Characteristics
Guidelines for Successful Prepubertal Sterilization

- Hypoglycemia - Hypothermia - Hypotension
- De-worm and vaccinate several days prior to surgery
- Withhold food 2 hours prior to surgery for kittens and 4 hours prior to surgery for puppies
- Administer glucose orally 10-20 minutes prior to surgery, can also administer post-op if needed
- Administer heated subcutaneous fluids just prior to surgery or directly after the surgery
- Keep all prepubes on heated surfaces during surgery and recovery
- Keep surgical prep time to a minimum and use non-reactive suture material
Major Advantages of Prepubertal Sterilization

- Extremely low complication rate
- Extremely low death rate
- Extremely rapid recovery
- Short surgical time (reduced anesthesia, reduced materials, reduced cost)
- Enhances the benefits of neutering in general
- Ensures animal *will never reproduce*

Improvise-Adapt-Overcome