

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ambiance, but the service in general is pretty deplorable. Uninspired, inept waiters who don't know jack about the food they serve can ruin an otherwise great meal. I might be more critical than most because I worked in food service for years in a state where less than minimum wage was paid to tipped employees, and so I lived and died by my tips. The servers I worked with took pride in providing a great experience for the guests at their tables.

Of course there are exceptions in Eugene, but they are far too rare. (A shout out to the awesome bartender at Bar 201 who made a \$9 cocktail seem like bargain.) It's all well and good to encourage people to keep eating out, but restaurant owners need to pay attention to more than just the food. Otherwise I'd rather stay home and cook it myself.

Mitch Moore
Eugene

SPAY IT DON'T SAY IT

It's disappointing that in your pet issue, you fail to mention that the reason "shelters are overflowing" is because of the simple fact that not enough people are spaying/neutering their pets. In the U.S., seven times more cats and dogs are born than people, meaning that more pets are entering shelters than there are people able to provide homes for them. When shelters get too full, innocent animals are killed to make room for new ones. It's conservatively estimated that of the 6-8 million cats and dogs that enter shelters every year in this country, half of them (3-4 million) are killed. These animals are often the offspring of family

pets, and a quarter of them are purebred. While most owners have good intentions, few are prepared for the work and financial strain involved with caring for a new litter. Even if you find homes for all of your pet's puppies or kittens, it means there are now fewer homes available for shelter pets.

Contrary to popular belief, letting your pet have even one litter will not improve its behavior. In fact, the mating instinct in both females and males may lead to undesirable behaviors that could cause frustrated owners to relinquish the pets to shelters. Intact animals are more likely to "mark," and those looking for mates can become aggressive and may injure themselves, other animals and even people.

A spay/neuter surgery is a one-time expense that can dramatically improve your pet's quality of life. Altered animals are generally more affectionate and have significantly lower risks of developing certain cancers. Neutered males have a reduced breeding instinct, making them less inclined to roam and fight.

Luckily, there are several options for Low Cost spays and neuters. At the WAG Clinic (345-3566) surgeries for male cats are only \$37, and females are \$47. Dogs start at \$75. Or, call the city of Eugene Spay and Neuter clinic at 682-3643.

Jessica Berg,
Melinda McCormick,
Nicole West
Shelter Animal Resource Alliance

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our story on spay and neuter did not make it into our print version of the July 30 Pets issue, but can be found on our website.

DON'T CRY BECAUSE IT'S OVER. SMILE BECAUSE IT HAPPENED!



SWEET POTATO PIE

A BIG FAT THANK YOU to EMILY for 11 years of AWESOME PIE SERVICE! I don't know how we'll do it without you! We miss you already!

Come see Emily before she's gone! Her last day is August 20th, and then she's off to Portland. Thanks for your support!

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Pictured here are the children of Mountain Rose Herbs' employee, Felicia Calden (from left to right: Ariel, Talia, and Aivianna)