

## Feline Fix by Five: Spay/Neuter Cats by Five Months of Age

**Philip Bushby, Professor Emeritus, DVM, MS, DACVS**

**Session Description:** The “traditional” age for spay neuter has been 6 months. Recent veterinary literature has caused many in the profession to question the appropriate age for spay neuter. The literature raising concerns about age of sterilization is almost exclusively related to large breed dogs. While the profession questions the appropriate age for spay neuter in dogs there should be no question about the appropriate age in cats. Sterilization of cats prior to five months of age significantly reduces the incidence of mammary neoplasia and, if performed in adequate numbers, would reduce or eliminate “kitten season” in animal shelters. This session will cover why Feline Fix by Five is important, explore the question of risks associated with spay neuter of cats prior to 5 months of age, address peoples’ concerns about spay neuter of cats at a younger age and present findings from veterinary literature.

**Speaker Bio:** Phil Bushby, a 1972 graduate of the University of Illinois CVM, is a Board-Certified Surgeon has served on the Mississippi State University CVM (MSU-CVM) faculty for 43 years. He established the MSU-CVM shelter program and is a frequent speaker on efficient spay/neuter. He was a member of the organizing committee for the shelter medicine specialty board, received the ASPCA’s Henry Berg Award in 2008, the AVMA’s Animal Welfare Award in 2012 and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Meritorious Service Award in 2015. He holds the Marcia Lane Endowed Chair of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at Mississippi State University.