

THE USE OF ZEUTERIN BY PORTLAND ANIMAL WELFARE TEAM

Mary Blankevoort, DVM
Board Chair, Portland Animal Welfare Team

Portland Animal Welfare Team (PAWTeam) is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to providing veterinary care to the pets of Portland's homeless and those living in extreme poverty. PAWTeam recognizes the importance of the bond between these disadvantaged people and their furry companions, and is committed to helping keep them together. To do this, we provide services that keep the animals (and their owners!) healthy, legal, and good citizens. Our clinics are conducted monthly at a location near downtown Portland. We see up to 140 animals per clinic, and have to turn away many more.

PAWTeam also requires that its clients agree to spay and neuter their pets, and we have always struggled to accomplish this component of our mission. We rely on partnering with local shelters, spay-neuter alliances, and local veterinarians who volunteer their services. Our list continues to grow, however, and this is where Zeuterin comes in.

The implementation of Zeuterin, a chemical sterilant for most intact male dogs, cuts our list of needed anesthetic dog surgeries by at least 40%, allowing us to concentrate scarce resources on the females. Because only light sedation is required, we can easily Zeuter a dog during our regular monthly clinics, at the same time he receives his vaccines and gets his nails trimmed! Volunteer time is minimal, necessitating only a certified DVM, and a CVT or other qualified helper.

Since becoming Zeuterin certified in November, 2012, PAWTeam veterinarians have Zeutered close to 80 dogs, between two all-day events and our regular monthly clinics. There have been no serious complications following these procedures. We have made Zeuterin a standard and recommended option for the castration of male dogs.

PAWTeam is very grateful to ARK Sciences for its grant, which helped train and certify 8 DVMs and CVTs, and for continuing to provide us with product and supplies.

We are extremely indebted to Dr. Byron Maas for his expertise and continued support.