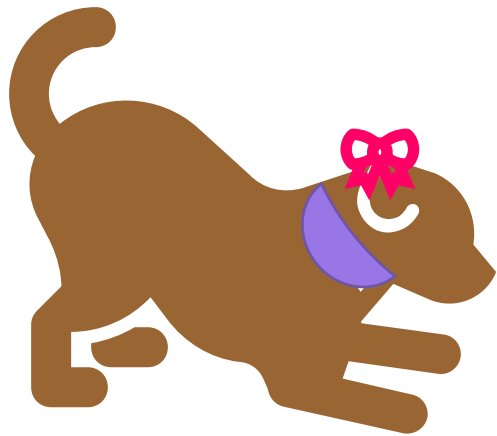


TO SPAY OR

NOT TO SPAY?



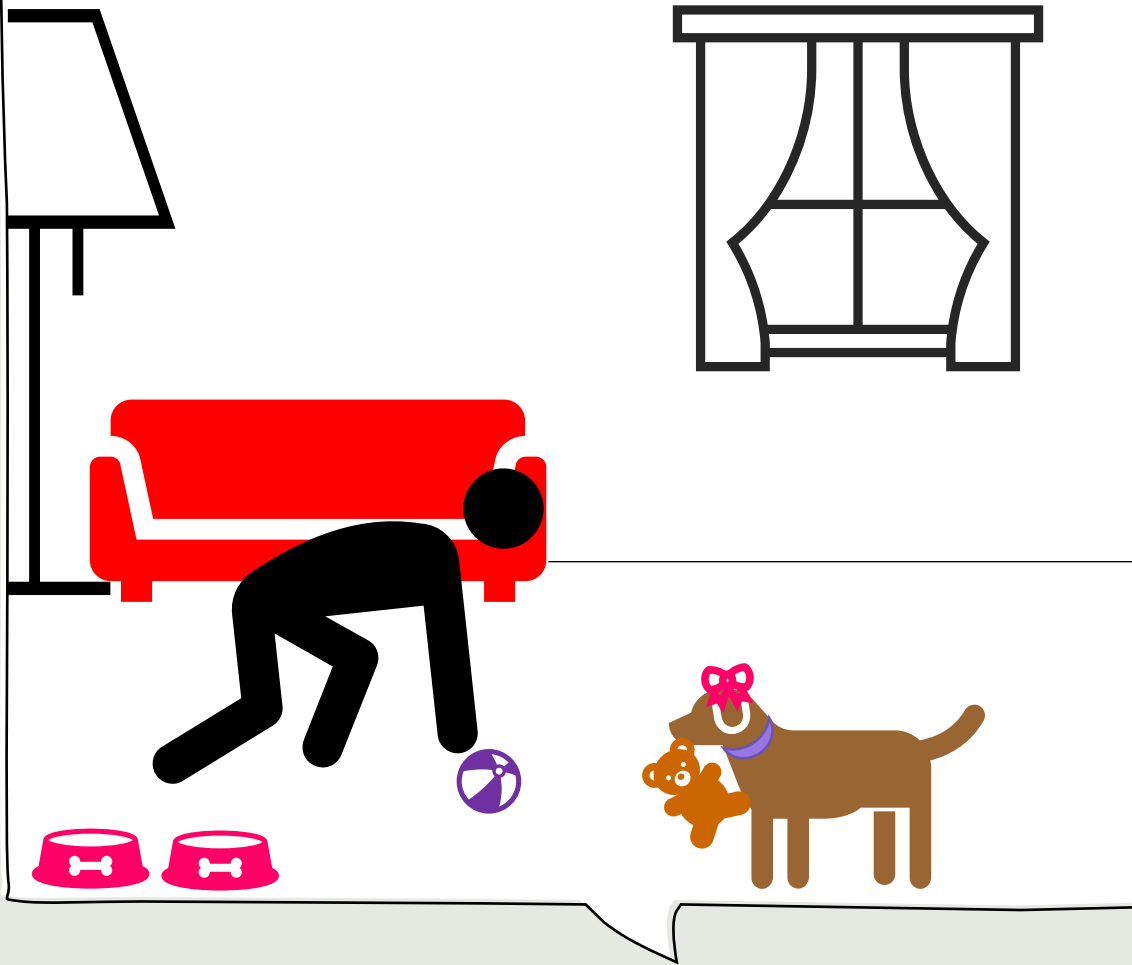
This is the life of an
unaltered (not spayed) dog
named Mia.



This is the life of a **spayed** dog
named Leah.



At 5 months old, Mia is a healthy and happy puppy.
She is so much fun!

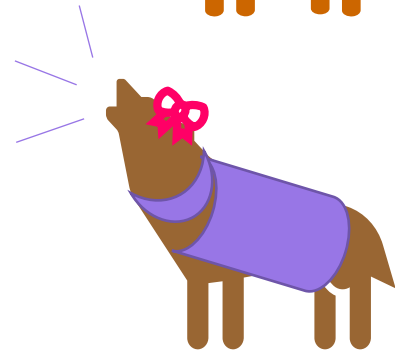
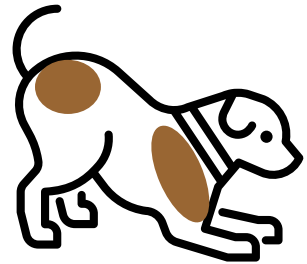
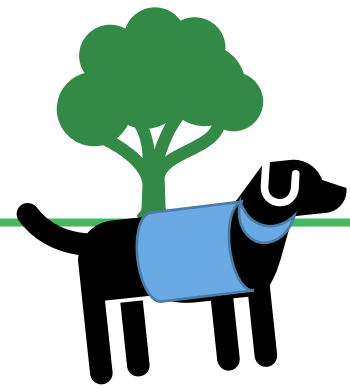


At 5 months old, we took Leah to a veterinary clinic to get her **spayed**. Even though Leah is healthy, we know it is important to get the surgery done while she is young. The surgery is so easy and fast, and she came home the same day.

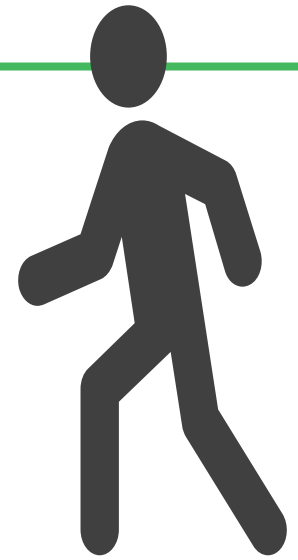
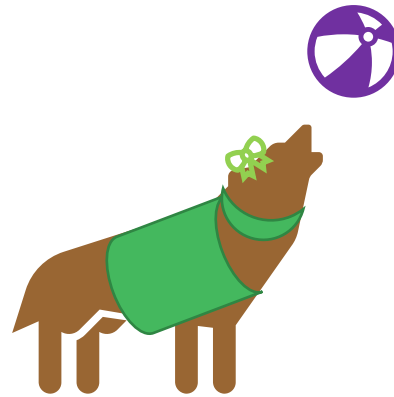
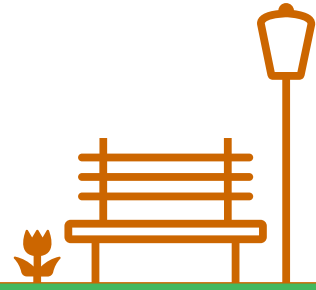




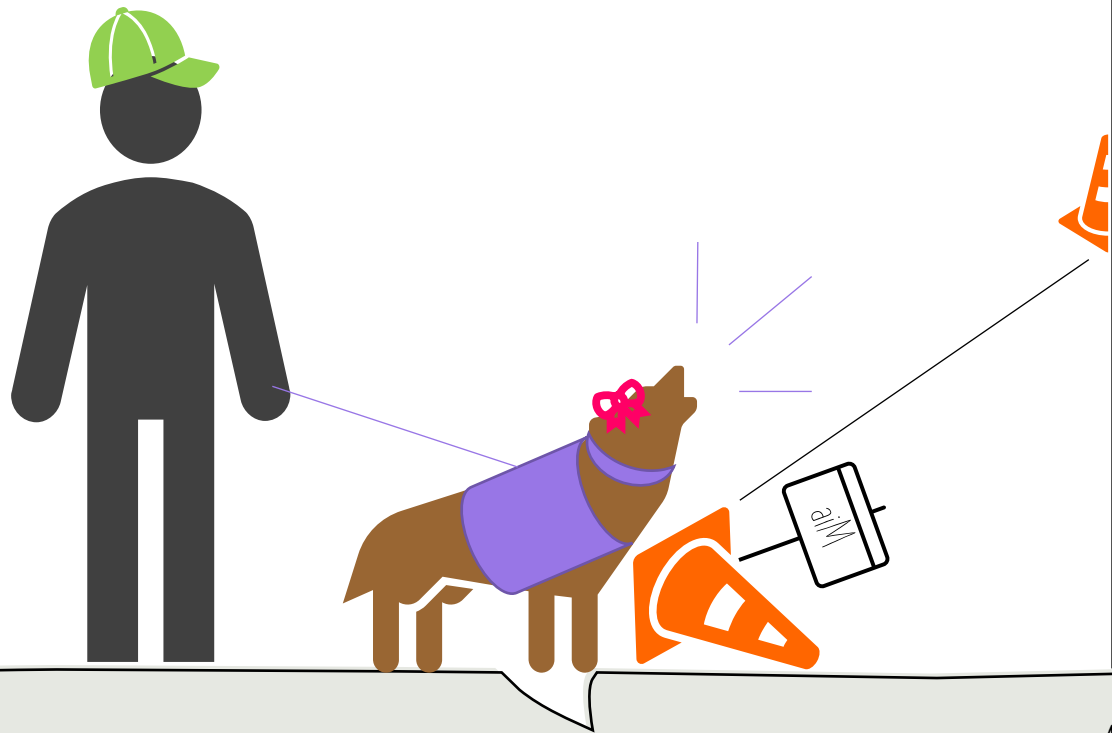
At 6 months old, Mia is full of energy. She is very active and loves to bark at other dogs. She is getting the attention of many dogs at the dog park.



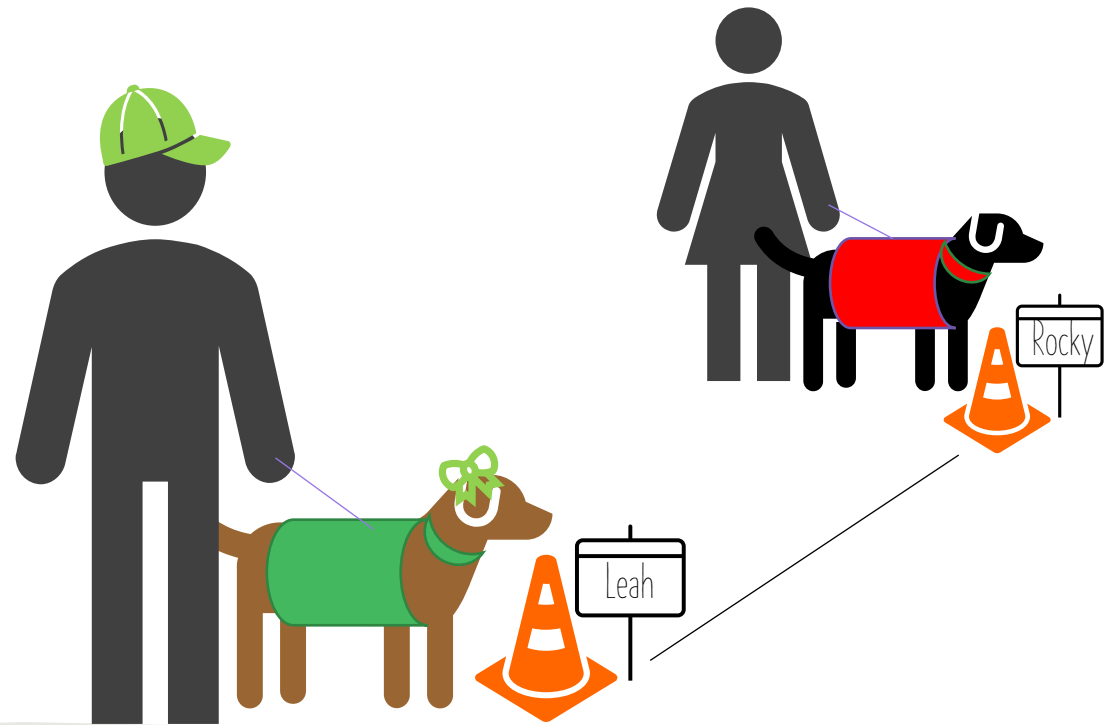
Four weeks after Leah's **spay** surgery, she is fully recovered. You go Leah! Leah can play like she used to without a problem.



Today is the day, we are starting obedience training. How exciting! Mia really needs it. She is too active and barks at every single dog she sees.



Today is the day, we are starting obedience training. How exciting! Leah is calm around the trainer and other dogs. What a good girl!



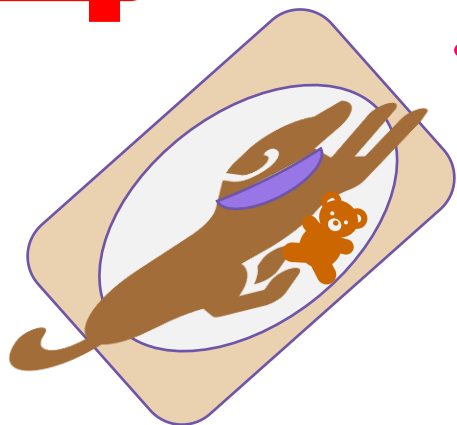
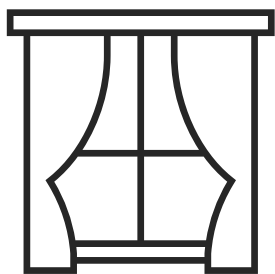
Oh no! We left the gate open by accident after returning from obedience training. Of course, Mia ran out. The neighbors said they saw her chasing after two dogs. We are looking for her everywhere! We are so worried for her.



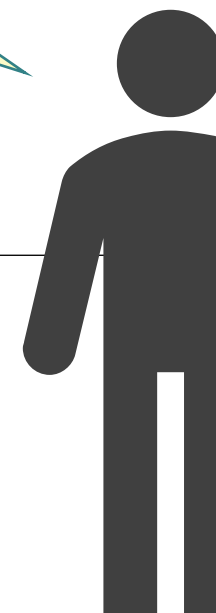
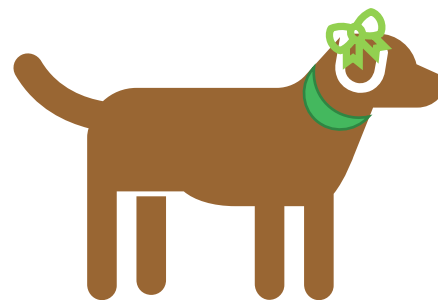
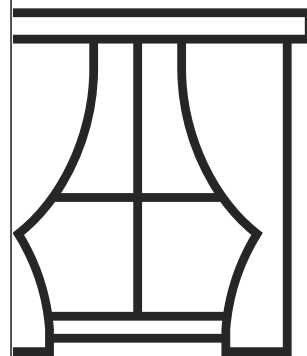
Oh no! We left the gate open by accident after returning from obedience training, but Leah stayed home. Phew! Since her **spay** surgery, she has calmed down a lot. I guess she does not care to explore outside or chase dogs around the block. Good girl!



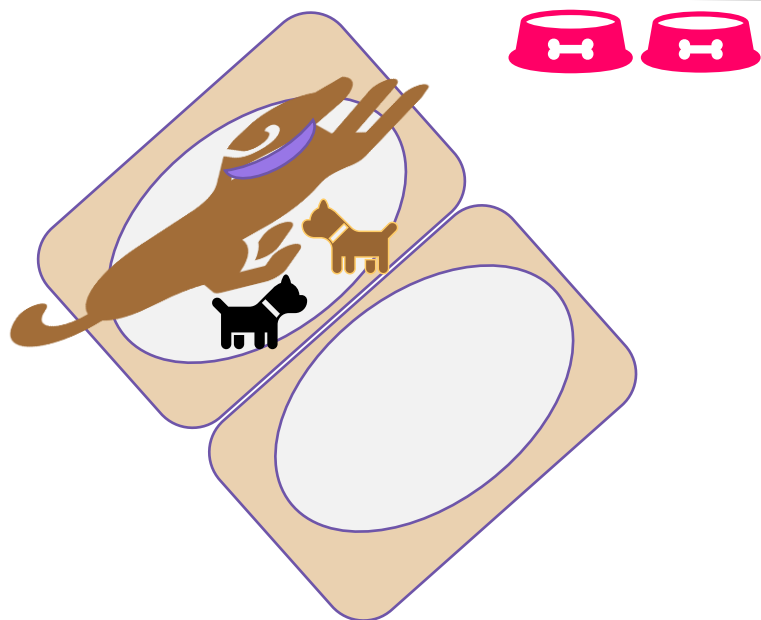
Two days later, Mia returned home. Poor Mia, we can tell she got into a dog fight when she ran away. We took her to the vet right away to make sure she is ok.



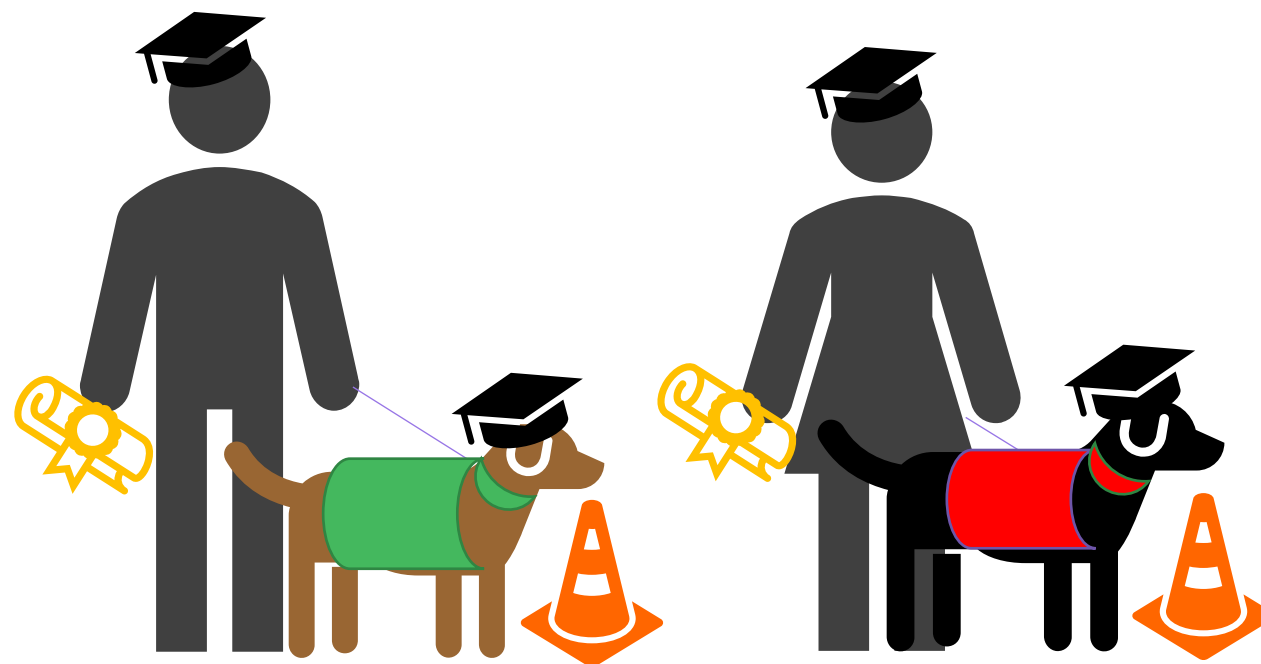
Two days later, Leah is practicing her commands. She is so smart!



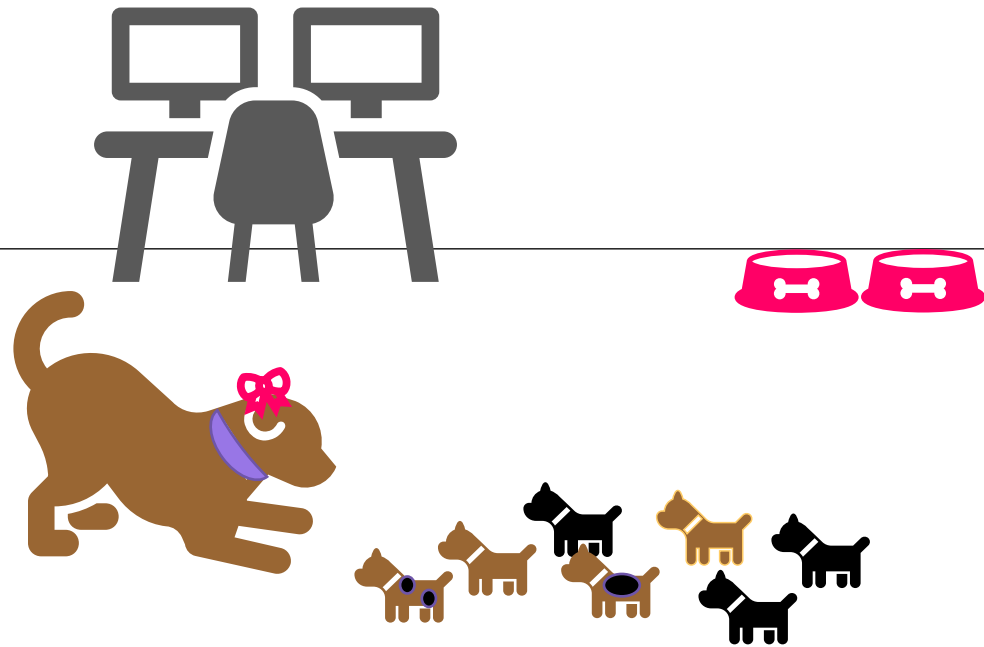
It is two months since Mia ran out. She must have met a boy dog when she ran away. We did not realize she is pregnant until three weeks ago. She is delivering her puppies right now!



Leah is 8 months old, and she passed her obedience training. Congratulations Leah! You are awesome!



It is two months since Mia gave birth to seven healthy and cute puppies. The vet said that once her puppies are 2 months old, we can spay her. We should probably do that.



It is two months since Leah graduated from obedience dog school. We decided to go to the beach and Leah is having a blast.



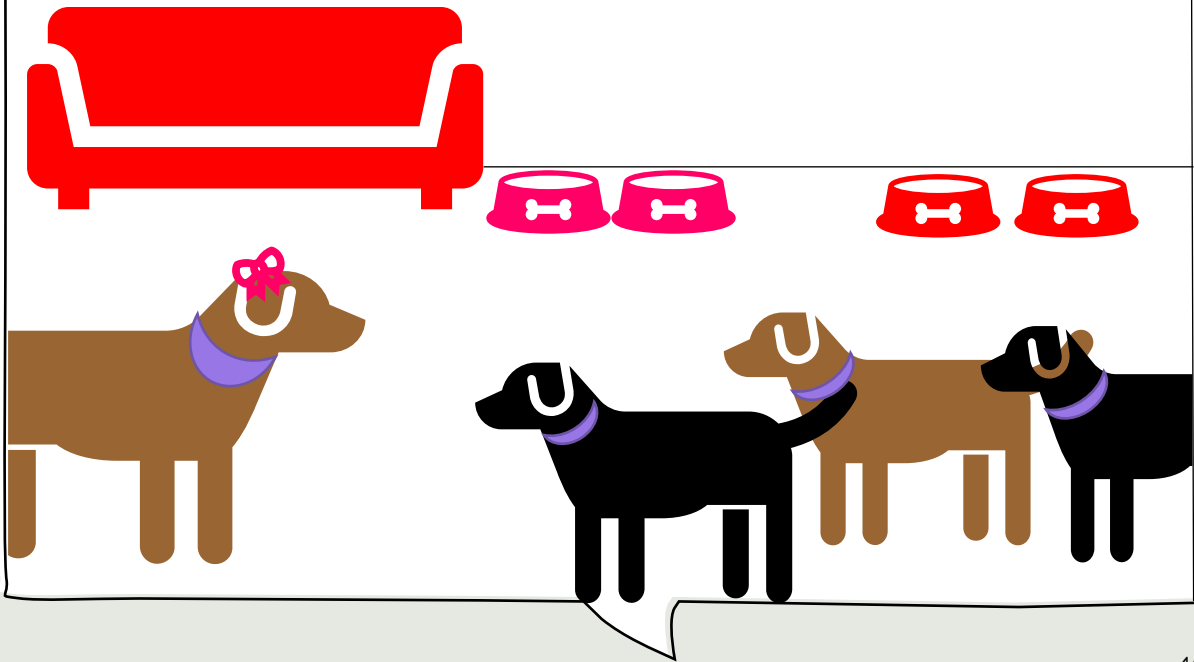
Mia turned 1 year old today. Happy birthday, Mia! So far, we adopted out four out of seven puppies. We feel bad because the longer the puppies stay, the harder it is for Mia and her puppies to be separated.



Leah turned 1 year old today. Happy birthday, Leah!



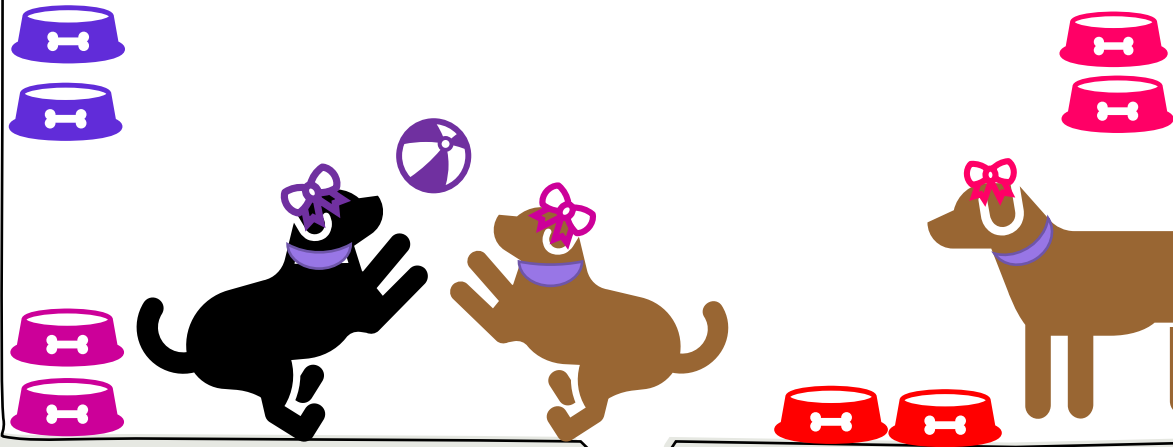
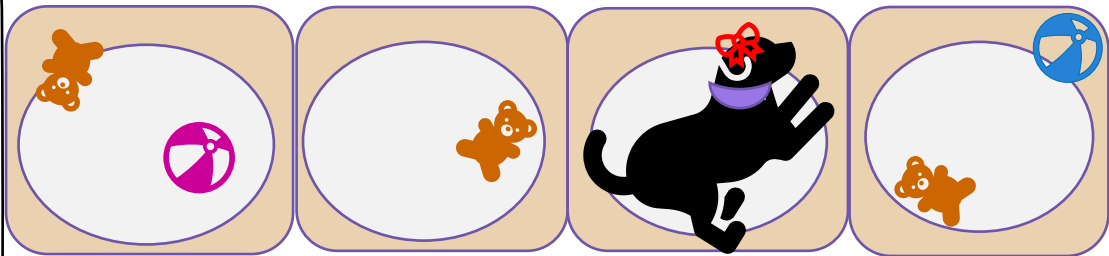
Mia's puppies are now 5 months old. No one is interested in adopting them. We love them so much, but four dogs are too much responsibility. If we had **spayed** Mia when she was younger, we would not be in this situation.



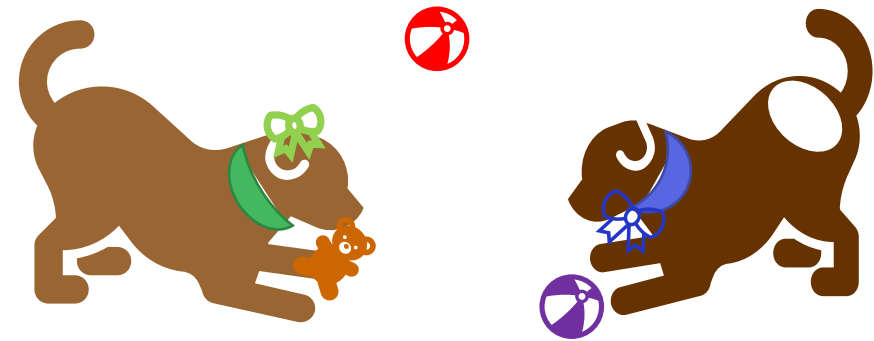
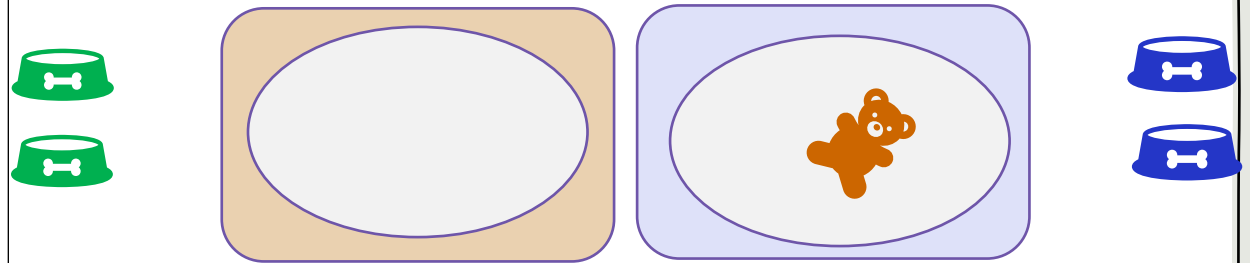
Leah is 1 year and 1 month old, and she is the best dog ever! We talked to our neighbor who just adopted a dog from an animal shelter. Our neighbor convinced us to visit the shelter. We know Leah is ready for a brother or sister, and so are we.



We decided to make some sacrifices to keep Mia's puppies. Yay! Now, we must **spay** all four dogs and it is going to be expensive. We do not need more puppies in this house. That is for sure.



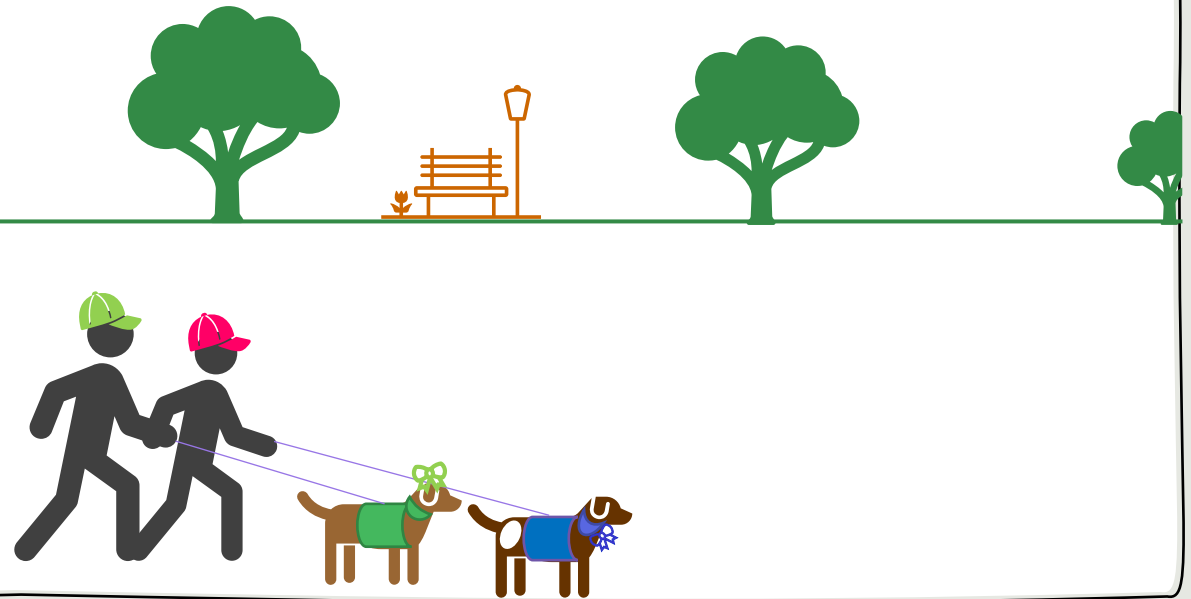
We visited the animal shelter three times. Today was the day we met a dog who is perfect for Leah and the family. We could not resist, and we adopted him. Welcome home, Luke!



Today is the day. Mia, Cleo, Sophie, and Daisy are getting **spayed**! No more surprise puppies for us.



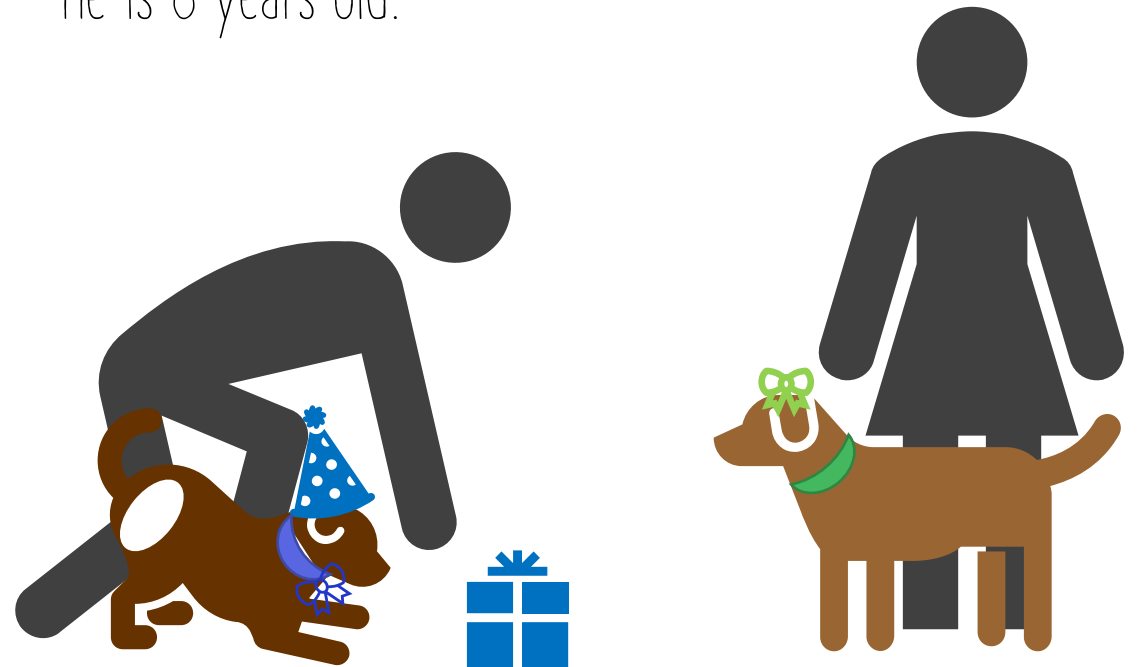
The shelter **neutered**, microchipped, and vaccinated Luke before his adoption. All we have to do is love him! And of course, start obedience training.



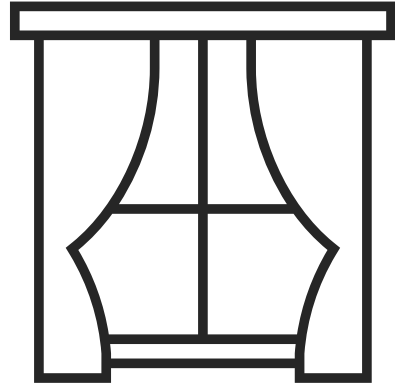
Sophie, Cleo and Daisy turned 6 years old today. Happy birthday, girls! Mia is almost 7 years old and very healthy. We love them so much!



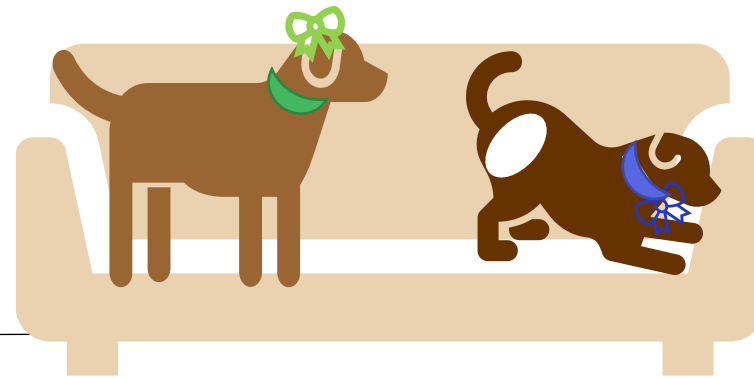
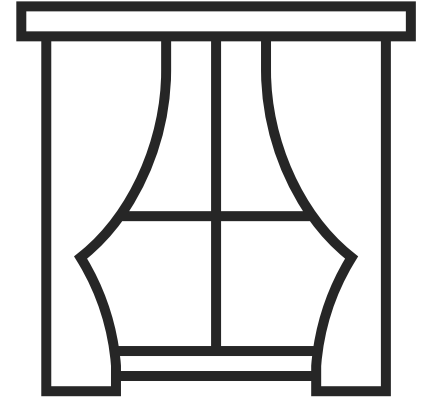
It has been 5 years since we adopted Luke. We do not know when he was born so we celebrate his birthday the day we adopted him. Happy birthday, Luke! We love him and Leah so much! We believe he is 6 years old.



We are glad we **spayed** all four dogs. We love our dogs, but would go crazy if one of them has another litter of puppies. Thankfully, that won't happen again.



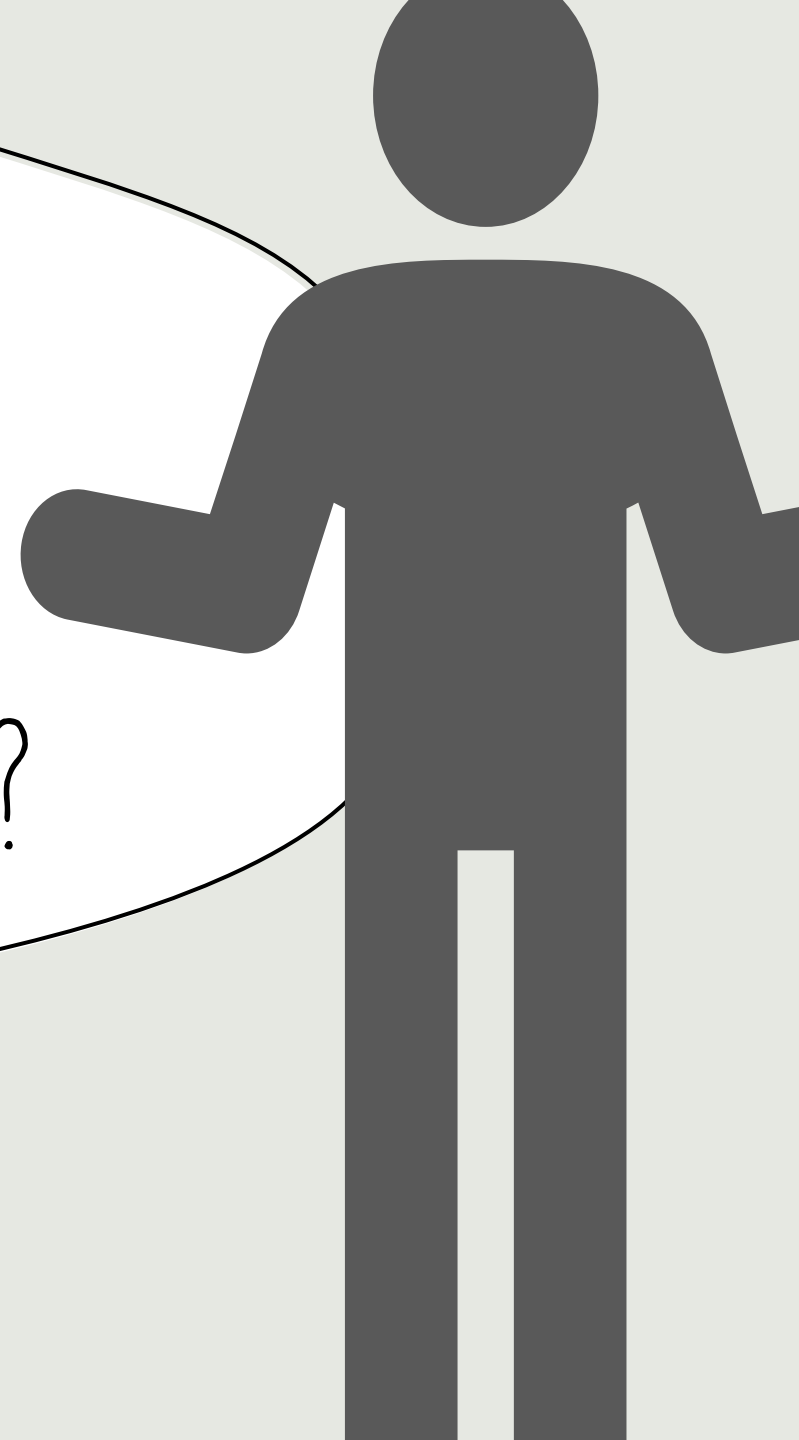
We are glad we **spayed** Leah when she was 5 months old. We did not have to worry about her having puppies, ever. **Spaying** her allowed us to rescue a dog from a shelter. By adopting Luke, we opened a space at the shelter for another homeless dog to be rescued. How wonderful is that?!



TO SPAY

OR

NOT TO SPAY?





Spay is one of the most common surgical procedures performed on female dogs and cats. This surgery removes the reproductive organ of the pet to prevent unwanted litters of puppies or kittens.



Neuter is the equivalent of spay surgery but for male pets.



What might happen if you do not spay your dog?



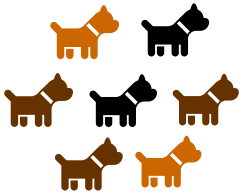
5-month-old Mia is very active.



6-month-old Mia can get pregnant already.



8-month-old Mia is giving birth to puppies!



Mia had 7 puppies! Help!



Mia is now 10 months old. Her puppies are 2 months old; some went to good homes already.

What might happen if you spay your dog?



5-month-old Leah got the **SPAY** surgery.



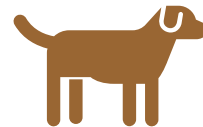
6-month-old Leah is completely recovered from her **SPAY** surgery. She cannot get pregnant. Yay!



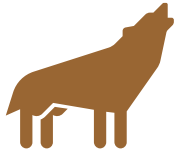
8-month-old Leah graduated from obedience dog school.



Leah loves making friends at the dog park.



Leah is 10 months old and very happy and healthy. We love her so much!



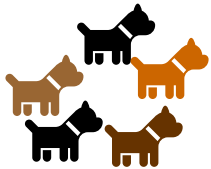
Mia cries every time we adopt out one of her puppies. We are so sorry, Mia. We cannot afford to keep your puppies.



We have three puppies left. No one wants to adopt them. We do not know what to do.



Mia is 1 year old, and she is pregnant again. Oh no, Mia! How did this happen?!



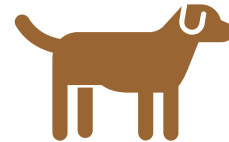
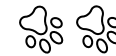
At 1 year, 2 months old, Mia is giving birth to her second litter!



Mia had five puppies and we still have her other three puppies.

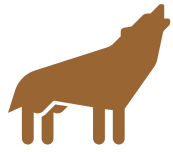


Leah loves going to the beach.

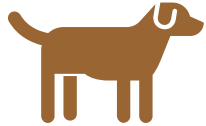


Leah is 1 year old, and everybody loves her!





We are sorry, Mia; we need to take your puppies to a shelter. We hope they get adopted. Please, do not cry, Mia.



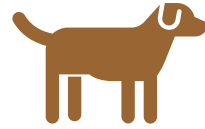
Poor Mia, she suffered so much when we gave her puppies away. It breaks our hearts to see her so sad. We are going to **SPAY** her before she gets pregnant again.



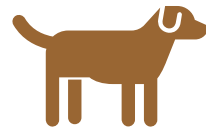
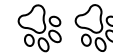
Mia is 1 year and 6 months old, and we **SPAYED** her today. No more puppies for Mia. Hooray!



Mia is now 11 years old. We love her so much! She is the best dog ever!



Leah likes to watch movies with us. She is too cute.



Leah is now 11 years old. We love her so much! She is the best dog ever!

TO SPAY OR NOT TO SPAY?

Yes!

SPAY your pets out of kindness and for their health.

1. **Help reduce the over-population of cats and dogs.** When we spay or neuter our pets, they will not have unwanted litters. That means less homeless cats and dogs.
2. **Healthier pets.** When we spay and neuter our pets, we lower their risk of developing cancer and other health issues. Spayed and neutered pets live longer.
3. **Help shelter animals.** When we spay and neuter our pets, animals at the shelter have a better chance of getting adopted. Hooray!
4. **Reduce euthanasia.** By spaying and neutering our pets, there is less animals at risk of being put to sleep (sacrificed) at shelters.
5. **Avoid sadness and stress.** When we spay our female pets, they do not experience having their puppies removed from them for rehoming. That experience is traumatizing and stresses the mom and the babies. Spayed and neutered pets only have to worry about being loved by their owners.



Written By Diana Martinez