1. **Desexed pets put on weight**
   Animals and people put on weight because of over consumption of food and insufficient exercise – diet and exercise are the key factors!

2. **Desexing stops a dog from being a good guard dog**
   Desexing does not alter this basic instinct – some dogs will never be guard dogs, they are just too placid, desexed or not. A dog doesn’t need aggression to be a good guard dog; it only needs to be able to bark! If you want an aggressive dog to guard your house, invest in a good security system – it will probably cost you a lot less and cause a lot less problems in the long term than an aggressive pet will!!

3. **Dogs and cats make better pets if they have a litter**
   Not true – in fact females often become more aggressive after a litter, as their protective instincts are magnified. Frustrated entire males can become unpredictable and aggressive.

4. **Pets need to come into season before desexing**
   Seasons cause a lot of unwanted dogs or tomcats to appear around your house howling, fighting, marking, urine spraying. After mating can result to unwanted pregnancies. There are no medical reasons for having a season. In fact, that first season can predispose to medical problems, such as mammary cancer, later on in life.

5. **Desexing is cruel/barbaric/painful/dangerous**
   Not true! The procedure is carried out under general anaesthetic with strict hygiene controls and monitoring to ensure maximum safety. Anti-inflammatory injections are routinely given at this surgery to minimise any post-operative discomfort. Our pets have no sense of “missing” anything – they live from day to day concerned only about their daily activities.

6. **My pet is confined all the time so why get it desexed?**
   Entire animals can suffer sexual frustration. Males can when an in-season female is within smell and females can when they themselves are in season – this can lead to changes in behaviour, which may lead to destructiveness and aggression. Desexing eliminates this problem, leading to a happier, healthier and well-adjusted family pet.

7. **I’d like to make a little more money from breeding my pet**
   This has been tried and tested throughout the ages and unless you run a professional breeding kennel of pedigreed animals, put in a lot of capital, and pay proper attention to quality feed, worming and vaccinations, you will more likely end up in debt over the experience.

8. **Having pups will be a good experience for the children**
   This “good experience” can actually be a very difficult time if the female has trouble having her litter and the children have to watch her in pain or when pups or kittens die at birth or soon after. There is no benefit for the pet in undergoing this type of experience. There is no positive educational experience for children in seeing their pet in need of a caesarian when their parents have not planned for this possibility or cannot afford the procedure. A better learning experience for the children would be to show them how to be responsible pet owners by having pets desexed and not producing more pups/kittens when thousands are put to sleep at the RSPCA each year as it is.

**Desexing is very important to the welfare and quality of life of our family pets.**