

NEUTERING YOUR DOG

WHY SHOULD I HAVE MY DOG NEUTERED?

Neutering removes the sexual urge from your dog and also means it will be “sterile”. Surgical neutering of dogs (castration) and bitches (spaying) involves removal of reproductive tissue and is permanent. Temporary or semi-permanent control can alternatively be effected by the use of certain drugs (please book an appointment with one of our vets if you would like more information).

If you do not intend to breed from your dog there are undoubted advantages to neutering both in the male and the female.

MALE (CASTRATION)

- Sexual behaviour is reduced so that if the dog gets the scent of a bitch in heat he is unlikely to show any interest and “wander”
- Eliminates the risk of testicular disease
- Markedly reduces risk of prostatic disease
- Reduces risk of some types of tumour
- Can improve some behavioural issues

FEMALE (SPAYING)

- Prevents unwanted pregnancy
- Prevents “heats” or “seasons” (oestrus), avoiding need for confinement every 6 months or so
- Prevents false pregnancy (a hormonal condition which can be distressing to bitches/owners)
- Eliminates the risk of uterine or ovarian disease
- Reduces the risk of mammary tumours
- Can improve some behavioural issues

Owners are often tempted to have at least one litter from a bitch due to a misconception that this will improve her temperament. There is no scientific evidence to support this.



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WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES?

It is a common fallacy that neutered dogs will become fat and lazy. Although in general terms a neutered animal requires 10% less food than an entire animal, proper feeding of a good quality calorie appropriate diet and adequate exercise should control any problems of obesity. Remember that all service animals, Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Dogs for the Disabled are routinely neutered.

It is also untrue that the neutered dog loses “character”. In some cases neutering is carried out, both in dogs and bitches, for certain behavioural abnormalities. Dogs may become more gentle (largely due to the loss of “sexual drive”) but they lose neither their spirit nor their intelligence and are just as active as when entire.

WHEN SHOULD I GET MY DOG NEUTERED?

Male dog (castration)

Dogs are usually castrated between 6-12 months of age, although the operation can be carried out at any age from 5 months upwards.

Female dog (spay)

Smaller dogs (<25kg) can be spayed from 6 months of age, prior to having a season. In larger dogs (and springer spaniels) spaying is ideally performed 4 weeks or 4 months after the first season, although it can be performed at this time interval after any subsequent season.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Neutering is a “day procedure” with animals admitted in the morning and going home later the same day. We will send you details regarding pre-operative care when you book the operation.



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Castration and spaying are both performed under general anaesthesia, which in young healthy animals carries a low risk. We ensure that any potential problems are minimised by physically checking your dog prior to anaesthesia (with a blood profile for hidden abnormalities if you so wish) and using the most up-to-date anaesthetic medications and techniques. Qualified staff monitor your pet throughout the procedure.

A veterinary nurse will discuss post-operative care of your dog with you on collection. Most dogs will be willing to eat within 24 hours of the operation and are getting “back to normal” within 3 days. Your dog will be provided with oral pain relief medication for this initial period. Exercise pattern will be advised on discharge - usually light lead exercise for 10-14 days. All bitch spays are sutured with dissolving stitches which are placed under the skin. There is no need for them to be removed and the dog is much less likely to interfere with the wound. Where possible we do the same for dog castrations.

If you have any particular queries or worries we are happy to discuss them either by telephone or at a routine consultation.



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LIFETIME HEALTHCARE

PRIMARY VACCINATIONS
MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION
ADVICE on BREEDING or NEUTERING
ADOLESCENT HEALTHCHECKS

ANNUAL VACCINATIONS and HEALTHCHECKS
FLEA and WORM CONTROL
NUTRITIONAL ADVICE and WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
DENTAL CARE

SENIOR HEALTH ASSESSMENTS
PRESCRIPTION DIET FOODS

ADVICE FROM OUR NURSES

GENERAL HEALTHCARE
BEHAVIOUR & ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT
GROOMING
NUTRITION and DIETARY ADVICE
WEIGHT CONTROL
DENTAL



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