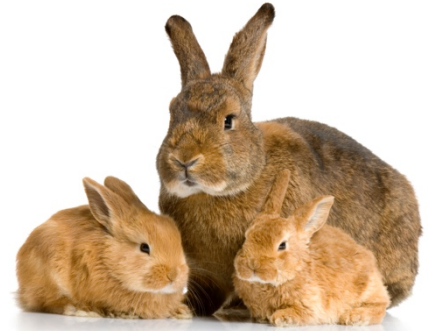


Neutering Rabbits

Rabbits are, as is well known, very good breeders but this is not the only reason to consider neutering your male or female rabbit. Pros and cons of neutering and what it involves are outlined below.



Female rabbits tend to start puberty at 4-5 months old and males slightly older, nearer 5-8 months. In general the smaller the rabbit the earlier it will mature. Female rabbits have a breeding season of January – October and within this period they will become receptive to mating multi times. A female rabbit will ovulate only if they are stimulated to do so during the receptive period. Stimulation can just be by being mounted and thus a female rabbit can be induced to ovulate even by another female mounting her. Pregnancy is 30-32 days.

Pros of neutering

- Limit aggression. Females are generally a lot more territorial and thus aggressive than males
- Stop urine spraying
- Prevent unwanted litters
- Prevent uterine cancer in the female rabbit. Some statistics quote that more than 50% of female rabbits up to the age of 5 years will develop this tumour.
- Prevent false pregnancy's in the female

Cons of neutering

- Involves a general anaesthetic. It used to be known that general anaesthetics were high risk in rabbits. This situation has much improved and although there is still a risk we have a specific anaesthetic procedure for rabbits which makes the process much safer and thus rabbits tend to be able to be discharged the same day as their operation.

We can castrate from 4-5 months old and spay females from 6 months old.

In general it is a day patient procedure. You drop your rabbit off with us in a morning; we are keen to keep the rabbit eating right up until the anaesthetic and straight after thus ask you to bring in its normal food/treats. The procedure takes longer in the female and thus they can be drowsy for a day or so afterwards whereas males tend to be very bright straight away. We advise they go home with pain relief and sometimes gut stimulants if we are concerned about their appetite. Post-operative checks tend to be 48 hours post-surgery.

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