



LINKS VETERINARY GROUP

NEUTERING INFORMATION – DOGS

What is Neutering?

Neutering is a general term used to describe permanent surgical removal of the functional sexual organs of both male and female pets. In males we call this castration, and in females we call it spaying.

When can Dogs be Neutered?

	MALE	FEMALE
DOGS	Usually from 5 months	Prior to 1 st season at 5-6 months

In certain cases timing can vary. This can be discussed at a free of charge adolescent assessment with a qualified vet or nurse.

Pros and cons of neutering

At Links Veterinary Group we recommend that all companion cats and dogs not intended for breeding are neutered.

	PROS	CONS
CASTRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminates unplanned puppies• Eliminates testicular disease / tumours• Reduced incidence of prostate disease• Reduced incidence of sexually driven aggressive behaviours• Reduced risk of hormone induced wandering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change in metabolism may increase the risk of weight gain.
SPAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminates unwanted pregnancies• Eliminates ovarian disease /tumours• Reduced incidence of pyometra (uterine infection)• Considerably reduced malignant mammary tumour incidence• Prevent false pregnancy and other oestrus associated problems• Reduced risk of hormone induced wandering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased incidence of urinary incontinence• Change in metabolism may increase the risk of weight gain

What does neutering involve?

- Neutering is performed under a general anaesthetic by a veterinary surgeon.
- Anaesthetic monitoring and aftercare is provided by our fantastic team of registered veterinary nurses.
- Neutering is an outpatient procedure so your pet is able to go home later the same day.



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What to expect on the day?

The Admission Appointment

- The procedure can be carried out at either our main hospital in Haddington, or our branch surgery in Musselburgh.
- You will be asked to drop off your pet at an admission appointment with one of our nurses between 8:30am and 9:10am.
- The nurse will go over the procedure and ask you for your consent.

Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Screening

All pets are clinically examined prior to surgery. However, a pre anaesthetic blood sample provides further opportunity to detect potential abnormalities *prior* to inducing anaesthesia. In otherwise young, fit and healthy pets we do not expect abnormalities. However, this is an added level of confidence that we can provide your pet with the best possible care on the day of their operation.

The procedure

An injection known as a premedication is administered to help relax your pet and provide pre-emptive pain relief. Furthermore, it allows us to use lower, thus safer, doses of the drugs used to anaesthetise animals.

Dog Castration - An area of skin between your dog's back legs is shaved to allow for the area to be sterilely prepared. A single, small incision is made in front of the scrotum, through which both testicles are removed. The surgeon will then close the incision. This procedure can take up to 30 minutes.

Bitch Spay (ovariohysterectomy) - A larger area of skin on your dog's abdomen is shaved and sterilely prepared for surgery. The ovaries and uterus are carefully removed via a midline abdominal incision, which is closed with dissolvable stitches. This procedure can take up to 1 hour.

Following the procedure your pet will be closely monitored by our nursing team. Once your pet is awake, we will call you with an update and arrange a discharge appointment for later the same afternoon, allowing sufficient time for recovery from anaesthesia.

The Discharge appointment

- A nurse will discuss post-operative care for your dog, which will usually involve pain management and exercise restriction to give the tissues time to heal, and ensure a comfortable, speedy recovery.
- A nurse will show you where the incision was made and what to look out for in case any problems should arise.
- Two, free, post-operative appointments, will be arranged for you 3 and 10 days following the procedure.

Back at Home

- Pets are often quite drowsy for the first 24 hours.
- Administer pain medication as instructed on your pet's discharge notes.
- In most cases dissolvable sutures will be used so there will be no need for stitches to be removed.
- A nurse will phone the day after surgery to ensure any queries or concerns are discussed. However do not hesitate to call us if any questions or concerns arise.

Haddington: 01620 822262

Musselburgh: 0131 665 3343