

Female Dogs

We recommend that if you do not plan to breed from your bitch that you have her neutered or 'spayed'. This requires an operation where both the ovaries and the womb are removed (ovariohysterectomy).

There are several advantages to having your bitch spayed;

- Your dog will not come into season (will not bleed every 6-8months)
- She will not undergo false pregnancies after her season which can be distressful for both dog and owner
- Older entire female dogs can have a condition known as pyometra which is an infection of the womb. This condition can be **life threatening**. In the dog such infections are best treated with surgery which carries far more risk if the dog is older and may be sick due to the infection.
- It is also widely known that dogs that are neutered before their first season are far less likely to development **malignant** mammary tumours than entire female dogs.

We cannot spay your dog if she is currently in season or has been in season over the last 12 weeks; please call the practice on 01389 751182 for more information.

Male Dogs

Neutering in male dogs involves surgical removal of the testicles, there are several health reasons why we advise this if you do not plan to mate your dog;

- reduces the risk of prostatitis a painful condition of older entire dogs.
- eliminates the prospect of testicular tumours common in older entire dogs

Castration may or may not change the dogs behaviour. Behaviours such as; wandering, sexual behaviours, urine marking and aggression all start as largely hormone driven behaviours. However over time such behaviours can become learned. As such castration may aid in reducing these behaviours but extensive behavioural modification techniques are often also required.

Cats

It is our advice that you neuter both your male and female cats if you do not intend to breed from them. In male cats this reduces wandering behaviour and territorial urine spraying.

Female kittens can become pregnant at 5 months of age so it is advisable that you keep them indoors until neutered to avoid unwanted kittens as re-homing centres are already overflowing.