

Female Dog Neutering Information



We recommend that your female dog has her 1st season and then be neutered two to three months later. In certain circumstances; if there is an entire male dog in the household, she can be spayed before her first season at 6 months of age.



The benefits of having your female dog spayed:

- No planned puppies to look after
- No male dogs calling when she is in season
- No problems exercising when in season
- Unneutered female dogs may develop a false pregnancy after a season and, although this is natural, it can cause behavioural and even medical problems
- Female dogs in heat can be messy – they produce a bloody discharge for up three weeks

The health benefits for your pet:

- Removes the risk of pyometra. This is an infection in the womb which can be fatal and is often seen in older unneutered female dogs.
- Removes the risk of complications during pregnancy or labour
- Reduces the risk of her developing mammary tumours if she is done at a young age, this benefit reduces as she gets older
- Removes the risk of tumours of the ovaries or womb and reduces the risk of vaginal tumours

Some people worry that their dog's personality will change. This isn't true.

People also worry that their pet will get fat. Neutered animals will have lower food requirements so you just need to feed them a little less.

Does she need to have a litter first?

No. There is no evidence that your pet is better adjusted by having a litter or indeed missing out by not having a litter. Indeed, the risks of having a litter and the potential complications can mean, allowing your pet to have a litter may leave them much worse off.

The risks:

The risks associated are minimal however with there is always a very small degree of risk with any anaesthetic. There is a tiny risk of bleeding problems and very rarely, there can be a wound problem afterwards, especially if the patient isn't too impressed with her stitches and interferes with the healing process.

There is a small risk of urinary incontinence later in life after spaying. This is higher in certain breeds, especially if spayed before their first season. Urinary incontinence can be managed by medical therapy.

What happens on the day of the op?

Your dog is admitted in the morning and discharged in the afternoon of the same day.

Once admitted she will get a pre-op examination. Pre-anaesthetic blood tests are optional and they are done prior to anaesthetic and surgery. If all is well your dog will get their anaesthetic and her ovaries and womb are removed through an incision made on the underside of her abdomen.

She will have skin stitches, but they are usually buried within the skin. She will need to be seen by the nurse 7 to 10 days after the procedure for a wound check.

She will have a small shaved area on her belly and on a foreleg where her anaesthetic is administered, this hair will grow back in a few weeks.

Your pet will generally go home feeling a little tired but most are up and about just a few hours after they've had their operation. Painkillers are prescribed for several days post op to ensure that she is as comfortable as possible.

She should not be allowed to interfere with her wound. As standard, we provide a buster collar to go home with but other options are available. Please discuss with one of the nursing team at the admit appointment.

- **Buster Collar:** attaches around her neck and goes up over her head
- **Medical Pet Shirt:** like a baby grow, unfastens near the tail so your pet can still toilet.

**** PLEASE DO NOT FEED YOUR PET AFTER 11PM THE NIGHT BEFORE THEIR OP AND LIFT THEIR WATER BOWL IN THE MORNING ****

After the op:

Your pet will automatically be put onto a reminder for a post neuter weight check. Our nurses would like to see your pet two months after the procedure as there can be a risk of unwanted weight gain if her diet is not closely monitored. These appointments are FREE.

Our Pet Health Club

Our Pet Health Club is our preventative healthcare plan, and one of the benefits is 20% off neutering costs. If you would like to find out more information have a look on our website: <https://www.mintlawvet.co.uk/services/pet-health-club>