



Male Dog Neutering Information



Thousands of unwanted dogs are put to sleep every year because there are not enough homes for them. You can help by neutering your dog. We recommend that your male dog is 18 months of age before being castrated, this allows bone development and maturity. In circumstances, if there is an entire female in the household, he may be castrated early.

The benefits of having your male dog castrated:

- No unwanted scent marking
- Male dogs will be more sociable
- Less dominant to people and other dogs
- Less likely to roam and be involved in an accident
- Castration can also be part of a regime to deal with behavioural problems but only in conjunction with advice from a behaviourist.

The health benefits for your pet:

- Removes the risk of testicular cancer
- Reduces the risk of prostate problems
- Reduces the risk of perineal hernias

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.

Cryptorchid castrate:

Retained testicles have a higher tendency to develop tumours than those in the scrotum and as a result castration is strongly advised. Dogs with retained testicles should not be bred from.

The risks:

The risks associated are minimal however with there is always a risk with 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 impressed with his stitches and interrupts the healing process.

What happens on the day of the op?

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

Once admitted he will be given an anaesthetic and his testicles are removed

He will have a small wound at the front of the scrotum and he will have stitches, these may be dissolvable but he will need to be seen by the nurse 7 – 10 days after the procedure for a wound check.

He will have a small shaved area on his belly – 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. Occasionally the patient may feel a little sorry for himself, in which case painkillers may be prescribed.

He will not be allowed to go near his wound. There are a couple of options available that will stop him being able to do this. Prices vary so please speak to one of the nursing team at the admit appointment.

- **Buster Collar**: attaches around his neck and goes up over his head
- **Medical Pet Shirt**: like a baby grow, unbuttons near the tail so your pet can still get out to 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 his diet is not closely monitored. These appointments are FREE.

Castrating Myths

“Neutering a male dog will ‘emasculate’ them”

This is not true. Masculine brain characteristics are set under hormonal influences very early in life and dogs do not need testicles to maintain them. Neutering could, in fact, make your dog much happier.

“Castrating a dog will change their personality”

No, it will not. Personality is not all about sex hormones. Some unwanted behaviours may be reduced, such as roaming, mounting, fighting or urine marking.

“I don’t need to castrate my dog because he is always with me”

Male dogs have been known to break down doors and fences in their attempts to escape and go after a female in heat, so there is never a guarantee you can stop your dog from mating at all times.

“Neutering my dog will cause it unnecessary pain”

All surgical procedures involve a degree of discomfort, but neutering is carried out under a full general anaesthetic and animals are given drugs to control any discomfort afterwards. Most animals are up and about just a few hours after the surgery and back to normal within a few days. Neutering a male dog is a quick procedure with a very short recovery time.

