



## Male Dog Neutering Information



In addition to preventing unplanned pregnancies there are many other potential benefits associated with neutering. We recommend that your male dog is 18 months of age before being castrated. In certain circumstances, for example, if there is an entire female in the household, he may be castrated earlier.

## **The benefits of having your male dog castrated:**

- Prevents unplanned pregnancies.
- Less likely to roam.
- Reduces scent marking.
- Castration can also be part of a programme to deal with behavioural problems but only in conjunction with advice from a qualified behaviouralist.

## **The health benefits for your pet:**

- Removes the risk of testicular cancer.
- Reduces the risk of prostate problems.
- Reduces the risk of perineal hernias and certain tumours affecting the anal area.

People are often concerned that their dog will gain excessive weight after castration. Neutered animals will have significantly lower food requirements than they had before neutering so they just need to be fed a little less.

Retained testicles have a higher tendency to develop tumours than those that have descended normally into the scrotum. Castration is strongly recommended in these dogs. Dogs with retained testicles should not be bred from.

## **What happens on the day of the op?**

Your male dog will be admitted first thing in the morning and discharged again in the afternoon of the same day.

Once admitted he will have a pre-op examination (including pre-anaesthetic bloods if opted for). If all is ok, he will then be given an anaesthetic and the procedure carried out. He will have both his testicles removed through a small incision just in front of his scrotum. This wound is closed using sutures buried within the skin. These do not need to be removed 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 just in front of his scrotum – this hair will grow back within 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. He will have had painkillers by injection before his procedure and will be dispensed further painkillers to take orally for a few days afterwards.

It is important that he doesn't lick excessively at his wound. There are a couple of options available that will prevent him being able to do this. A buster collar is included in the cost of the procedure, but some owners/their dogs prefer a medical pet shirt.

- **Buster Collar**: like a lampshade, attaches around his neck and goes up over his head.
- **Medical Pet Shirt**: like a Babygro, popper fastenings near the tail so it can be opened when your pet goes out to toilet.

**PLEASE DO NOT FEED YOUR PET AFTER 11PM THE NIGHT BEFORE THEIR OPERATION AND LIFT THEIR WATER BOWL WHEN YOU GET UP ON THE MORNING OF THEIR PROCEDURE**

The risks associated with castration are very low. As with any anaesthetic procedure there is always a small degree of risk with the anaesthetic itself. This is something we work hard on to minimise. There is a potential risk of bleeding and very rarely, there can be complications with wound healing. This risk is increased if the patient licks excessively at or interferes with their wound.

Your pet will automatically get a reminder for a free post neuter weight check with one of our nurses. His metabolic rate reduces after neutering so there can be weight gain if his food intake is not adjusted.

## **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 go after a female in heat! It is very hard to guarantee that your dog can’t escape/go after a female in heat.

### **“Neutering my dog will cause it unnecessary pain”**

All surgical procedures involve a degree of discomfort, but neutering is carried out under a general anaesthetic and animals are given drugs to control any discomfort both before the procedure and for several days 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 short recovery time.

