

Dog Castration – What you need to know

The Day Before

- Please do not feed your dog after 10pm the night before the procedure. They can have water available overnight but just take it up in the morning
- If your pet is on any specific diet, please bring some along with you
- If your pet is on any long term medication please call to ask whether this should be given as normal the night before/morning of the procedure

On the day

- You will have been given an appointment time to bring your pet to the surgery for a preoperative examination by the vet, to discuss the procedure and estimated costs.
- The vet will:
 - Weigh your dog and perform a physical examination including checking both testicles are present.
 - Discuss with you whether a pre-anaesthetic blood test is indicated to check basic liver and kidney function etc before going under an anaesthetic. They will also discuss with you whether intravenous fluids (“a drip”) is indicated based on anaesthetic risk category and estimated length of the procedure. *Intravenous fluids are proven to help to improve anaesthetic safety and speed up recovery times.*
 - Go through the consent form with you and will happily discuss any potential complications of the castration procedure to allow you to give informed consent. Possible complications could include:

| During the procedure | After the procedure |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bleeding○ Anaesthetic reaction/thromboembolisms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pain/swelling/infection of wound○ Suture material reaction○ Wound breakdown |

If you require further explanation of these potential complications or how they could affect your dog please ask your vet.

- After gaining informed consent from you and a contact telephone number that you are available on all day, the vet will take your dog through to the Prep area
 - Here, they will have bloods taken if indicated and an intravenous catheter placed. They will then receive an anti-inflammatory injection and a “premedication” injection which contains an opioid pain relief and something to help reduce anxiety levels. They will then be introduced to their kennel where they will stay while their “premed” takes effect.
 - When ready, they will then be anaesthetised with a drug through their intravenous catheter, a tube will be placed in their airway and connected to oxygen and anaesthetic gas which keeps them anaesthetised. Once settled your dog will be positioned and prepared for surgery by clipping the hair in front of their scrotum and “scrubbing” with an appropriate antimicrobial surgical scrub solution.

- Castration involves making an incision through the skin just in front of the scrotum. Each testicle (one at a time) is gently pushed forwards and through the incision. A layer on the outside of the testicle is stripped back and the large vessel and spermatic cord are ligated with suture material. The skin and layers underneath are then sutured back across.
- Your dog is then recovered from the anaesthetic and is monitored throughout recovery. Once up and about they will be offered some lunch and taken out to stretch their legs.
- A veterinary nurse will call you to let you know how things have gone and confirm the time for picking your dog up.
- At the discharge appointment a veterinary nurse will go through medications and after care with you and explain about post-operative checks.