

Information Sheet

Neutering dogs

Ovario-hysterectomy (spaying)

Spaying, or neutering, involves the removal of the ovaries and the uterus (Ovario-hysterectomy). Surgery can be performed after the first season, the optimum time to spay is 3 months after the finish of the season. Some bitches are spayed at 6 months before the first season but the bitch may “mature” better if she has one season.

Reasons for ...

1. The bitch will no longer come into season (no mess or inconvenience).
2. She will be unable to get pregnant - so there will be no unwanted puppies.
3. The risk of her getting a potentially life-threatening uterine infection (pyometra) is removed. This is common in middle aged entire bitches.
4. The chances of her suffering from hormone induced mammary (breast) cancer can be reduced.

Reasons against ...

1. Weight gain is always a worry as this in itself can cause problems. You can monitor your dog's weight either by observing or by having her weighed whilst she is in the surgery.
2. All general anaesthetics involve some risks. The risk is smaller in young, fit animals than in older dogs (e.g. those that are ill with a pyometra).

Castration of the dog

Castration, or neutering, involves surgical removal of the testicles and can be done in any male dog from around 8 months onwards.

Reasons for ...

1. All male dogs have natural urges. Castration removes these, and also the resulting tendency to roam and other undesirable behaviour.
2. Some potentially life-threatening medical problems are more likely to occur in entire males e.g. hernias, prostate trouble, testicular tumours. Castration reduces or removes the danger.

Reasons against ...

1. *'Their temperament changes for the worse'* - **This is not true.** There is no change in the dogs' temperament, if anything they become more loving.
2. Weight gain is always a worry as this in itself can cause problems. You can monitor your dog's weight either by observing or by having him weighed whilst he is in the surgery.
3. All general anaesthetics involve some risks. The risk is smaller in young, fit animals than in older dogs (e.g. those that are ill with testicular tumours).

Your dog's castration

- After the operation many dogs lick the wound and cause post operative inflammation and infection.
- Of the last group of castrates we performed **7 out of 32** had this complication which is uncomfortable and needs antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to treat it which you will have to pay for.
- The owners of all these dogs had declined the use of a Buster collar.
- We **STRONGLY** recommend use of a Buster collar post op to save your dog discomfort and you further expense.