

Neutering should be considered if you are keeping any male dog as a pet.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF NEUTERING MY MALE DOG?

- Reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis
- Reduces the risk of hormone-related diseases such as perianal adenoma
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common cancer in intact dogs
- Removal of sexual urges, which usually decreases roaming behaviors
- Reduction of certain types of aggression

IS NEUTERING PERFORMED FOR ANY OTHER REASON?

The operation may be performed to treat testicular tumors and some prostate gland conditions. It is also used to control hormonal (testosterone) dependent diseases such as anal adenomas.

Neutering may also be used in an attempt to treat certain forms of aggression.

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES?

Most of the disadvantages quoted for neutering dogs aren't founded in fact. Obesity is probably the most commonly quoted disadvantage of neutering. While it is true that neutering your dog can decrease metabolism slightly, obesity is the result of overfeeding and not exercising enough. By regulating your dog's caloric intake and exercising him regularly, you can prevent obesity in neutered or intact males.

Neutering doesn't cause a change in personality, guarding instincts, intelligence, playfulness, or affection.

WHEN SHOULD THE OPERATION BE PERFORMED?

For most breeds, neutering is recommended at 6 months of age. For large and giant breeds, neutering is recommended around 1 year of age to allow them to reach their full size. For these breeds, neutering at a younger age can predispose them to joint issues later in life.

ARE THERE ANY DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATION?

We understand the idea of putting your pet through major surgery is a scary one. However, with pre-surgical bloodwork, modern anesthetics, monitoring equipment, and our very knowledgeable staff, the risk of a complication is very low. It has been said that your pet has a greater chance of being injured in a car wreck than having an anesthetic or surgical complication.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY DOG UNDERGOES THIS PROCEDURE?

We recommend taking your dog in to the clinic for pre-anesthetic bloodwork a week prior to surgery. This bloodwork is very important as it can detect any abnormalities, most importantly in the liver and kidneys, which are the organs mostly responsible for metabolizing and eliminating the anesthetic drugs. Should an abnormality be detected in the bloodwork, we will alter our anesthetic protocol to be safe for your pet, or in some cases surgery may need to be postponed until the abnormality is resolved to ensure your pet's well-being. Furthermore, you will be sent home with Trazadone – a medication that is part of our anesthetic protocol and is at no charge to you. The reason we dispense this is because it helps make patients more comfortable when being left at the clinic for their surgical procedure. It allows us to decrease the anesthesia given for surgery as the more calm a patient is, the more effective the anesthesia will be. It also helps patients during recovery as it decreases stress and anxiety when waking up.

On the day of surgery, a veterinarian will examine your pet. If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized. Your dog will have an intravenous catheter placed to administer the anesthetic and to provide fluid therapy during the surgery. After your pet is anesthetized, a breathing tube will be placed in his trachea or "windpipe". This will deliver oxygen and the gas anesthetic directly into the lungs. The surgery consists of making a small incision in front of the scrotum and removing the testicles. Many veterinarians use absorbable internal sutures so that you do not have to return your dog to the hospital to have them removed.

This client information sheet is based on material written by Ernest Ward, DVM.
© Copyright 2005 Lifelearn Inc. Used with permission under license. July 24, 2019
And Copyright 2008 - 2013 by the Veterinary Information Network, Inc.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The influence of testosterone will gradually enlarge the prostate over the course of the dog's life. In age, it is likely to become uncomfortable, possibly being large enough to interfere with defecation.
- In some areas, neutering may be required as municipalities attempt to prevent pet overpopulation. Check with your local city or county officials.
- The interest in roaming is eliminated in 90% of neutered dogs.
- Aggressive behavior against other male dogs is eliminated in 60% of neutered dogs.

