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NEUTERING

Why should I have my dog neutered?

Neutering should be considered if you are keeping any male dog as a pet. Remember that Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, and Dogs for the Disabled are routinely neutered.



What are the advantages of neutering my male dog?

- Reduces the risk of prostatitis (infection of the prostate) and enlargement of the prostate which causes urination problems.
- Reduces the risk of hormone-related diseases such as perianal adenoma (tumors around the anal area).
- 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.
- Reduction in unwanted puppies.

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 perceived disadvantages are false. The most quoted of these are that the dog will become fat, lazy, and useless as a guardian. Obesity is probably the most commonly quoted disadvantage of neutering. Obesity is the result of overfeeding and not exercising enough. By regulating your dog's diet and caloric intake, 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?

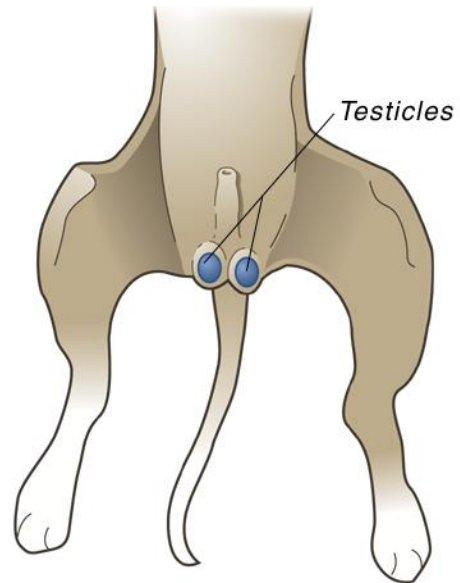
Research reveals that neutering a pet at an early age does not cause any increased risk. Most veterinarians recommend neutering at around four to six months of age, before puberty. This is to prevent unwanted secondary sexual behaviors from being learned. One example is marking.

Are there any dangers associated with the operation?

Neutering requires general anesthesia. With modern anesthetics and monitoring equipment, 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?

Your pet will be examined by a veterinarian and pre-anesthetic blood tests will be performed. If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized and given pre-surgical pain relief injections. 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, isoflurane, directly into the lungs. The surgery consists of making a small incision in front of the scrotum and removing the testicles. The veterinarians use absorbable internal sutures so that you do not have to return your dog to the hospital to have them removed.



Are there any post-operative precautions I should take?

Rest and restriction of activity are most important to the post-operative care you should provide. We will be sending home an anti-inflammatory pain medication to be started the day after surgery. Most dogs can resume normal activity one week after surgery. Until then, leash walk your dog only, no swimming, bathing, running or climbing stairs and make sure he gets plenty of rest. Please contact us if you have any questions after surgery. We are here to answer them and help if need be during your pet’s recovery period.

*This client information sheet is based on material written by Ernest Ward, DVM.
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