



Valley Veterinary Group

'For all creatures great and small'

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Neutering Dogs – The Facts

Neutering of both male and female dogs is a routine procedure performed by most veterinary surgeons. The “speying” (“dressing”) of your female dog involves the removal of the ovaries and uterus (the entire reproductive tract). The “castration” of your male dog involves removal of the testicles. Both of these procedures are performed under general anaesthesia and usually involve hospitalising your dog from 9am to 4pm.

The Female Dog

Neutering your bitch will decrease the risk of mammary tumours (if neutered before the second season), prevents uterine infections (pyometras), unwanted pregnancies, false pregnancies, ovarian cancers and uterine cancers. The removal of the ovaries ensures a dramatic decrease in the production of oestrogen and progesterone (female hormones). This ensures that neutered bitches do not come into season and cannot have puppies.

Neutering bitches has very few disadvantages, the most obvious of which is that she cannot have puppies. Very occasionally neutered bitches can develop urinary incontinence later in life but this can usually be easily treated and as mentioned, the incidence of this occurring is rare. Very occasionally bitches can get thinning of the hair coat on the flanks. Again this can be treated. It is advisable to monitor your pets weight as weight gain can occur post-operatively. Regular exercise and monitored food intake should prevent this.

The Male Dog

The removal of the testicles ensures a dramatic decrease in the production of testosterone and androgen (male hormones). This will reduce the dog’s sexual behaviour (including mounting and wandering in search of female company).

Neutering may prevent or reduce boisterous behaviour, scent marking, aggressiveness, prostatic problems and some anal tumours. The risk of testicular cancer is eliminated. Castration can also aid in the treatment of certain hernias. Neutering males has very few disadvantages, the most obvious being the inability to father pups. Occasionally weight gain can occur, although as with female dogs this can be prevented.