



Neutering

Neutering dogs has many lifestyle and health benefits.

Males:

Castration reduces the risk of common prostate diseases which can cause pain and urinary problems later in life, and testicular tumours are prevented. Behaviour is often less aggressive after the surgery, particularly towards other dogs. Current recommendations for males is to wait until they are 1 -2 years old, depending on the breed (for larger breeds, 2 years is recommended). If there is any reason you feel requires earlier castration (entire female in the same house for example), please discuss this with our vets. There is an option of a “chemical” castration available. This is an implant that goes under the skin and has the same effects as neutering but is not permanent. We recommend having a discussion with one of our vets or nurses to decide the best option on an individual basis.

Females:

Spaying a bitch will prevent the occurrence of a common life-threatening uterine infection called Pyometra and will dramatically reduce the risk of mammary cancer if performed at a young age. There will also normally be a cessation of seasons with no bleeding or behavioural changes and no unwanted pregnancies or “false pregnancies”. It is recommended that bitches are spayed three months after their first or second season. This allows the vulva to develop, reducing the risk of urine irritating the skin as an adult and allows the body to develop through puberty first. If this is not done, then she should be spayed mid-way between seasons.

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