

# Neutering



Statistics have shown that neutered animals are less susceptible to disease, live longer and fit into our society a lot better! Be a responsible owner and provide your dog with a good home, plenty of love and surgical sterilisation!

## Isn't it unnatural to neuter an animal?

It is about as unnatural as animals living with people. Almost everything about this relationship is artificial. It is unnatural to let dogs into your house, to feed them or take them to the vet. We choose animals to live in society with us, so we should at least do the right thing and make the "fit" more comfortable.

The hormones produced by an entire dog may play a significant role in influencing some of the less desirable behaviour for which many animals are euthanased every year, not to mention hundreds of unwanted pregnancies.

Surgical sterilisation (spaying and neutering) is permanent and as a general rule, safe.

## The benefits of neutering include:

### Dogs:

- Neutering alters certain male behaviours but the changes are good.
- Most neutered males don't feel the need to urine mark their territories.
- After time, neutering may reduce wandering which means less chance of causing an accident, upsetting your neighbours, costing you pound fees, having your dog destroyed for worrying stock and having to pay for the damages and less sleepless nights wondering where he is.
- It may reduce some forms of aggression but it does not diminish the dog's guarding ability or reduce the dog's natural inquisitiveness. This means your dog is less likely to get into fights which are dangerous to your dog's health (and yours if you get in the way), can result in expensive veterinary costs to treat wounds and can also result in legal proceedings being taken against you.
- It is inclined to reduce the likelihood of your dog biting a person and having to be put down.
- It will prevent unwanted pregnancies.

### **Bitches:**

- Her nature does not change at all. She may have a tendency to put weight on but as long as you are aware of this you can take steps to prevent it.
- Spaying stops those annoying male dogs hanging around when she is in season.
- You don't have to keep her locked up for three weeks, which both owner and dog hate.
- Stops bitches coming on heat and leaving blood stains around the house.
- Stops bitches going through pseudopregnancy (phantom pregnancy) which promotes maternal and territorial aggression and makes them more cautious of strangers.
- If spaying is done at an early age it considerably reduces the chance of mammary cancer developing later in life.
- The longer bitches are left entire the more susceptible they become to contracting uterine infections which can prove fatal if not treated, and usually requires spaying.
- It will prevent unwanted pregnancies.

There are drugs you can use to stop bitches coming in season (see your local Veterinarian) but these need to be repeated every 5 months and a small proportion of animals develop side effects. This method will work out more expensive in the long run compared to spaying.

Neutering simply pushes sex drive and fighting down the list of priorities allowing other activities to become more important such as working, hunting, tracking, obedience, retrieving or just plain having fun.



### **Myths**

#### **Bitches need one litter before spaying.**

**Wrong:** Some Veterinarians believe it is preferable that bitches have one season before spaying. It is totally unnecessary that they need to have a litter.

#### **The operation is painful and uncomfortable.**

**Wrong:** The animals are anaesthetised and get post operative pain relief to the same extent as humans undergoing surgery. The end result is the elimination of discomfort from sexual frustration and hormonal imbalance.

**Do the right thing, have your dog neutered and prevent thousands of helpless animals being euthanased every year.**

**The best gift you can provide your dog with is surgical sterilisation.**