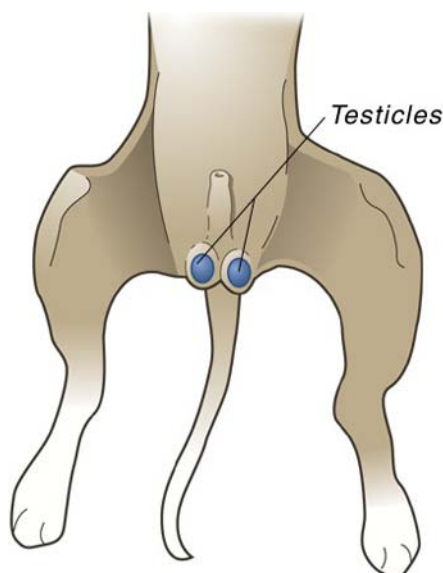




NEUTERING

Should I have my dog neutered?

Neutering removes the sexual urge from both dogs and bitches. It can be carried out surgically when it is irreversible. Certain drugs can provide temporary or semi-permanent control but should not be used as prolonged treatments.



What are the advantages and disadvantages?

If you do not intend to breed from your dog it has undoubted advantages both in the male and the female. In the male dog is removes the sexual urge so that if the dog gets the scent of a bitch in oestrus he is unlikely to show any interest which in certain breeds can be an undoubted advantage. Neutering the bitch prevents oestrus as well as breeding. She will not come into heat and therefore will not have to be confined and deprived of her usual exercise and companionship which otherwise will occur usually twice a year when she is in heat (oestrus) for at least 3 weeks each time.

Owners are often tempted to have at least one litter from a bitch. There appears to be a general misconception that having a litter will improve temperament. There is no scientific evidence to support this theory whereas it has been proven that neutering in the bitch not only obviously prevents subsequent and not uncommon diseases of the uterus but also reduces the possibility of breast cancer.

Once neutered the bitch will have no oestrus and will not have unwanted puppies or phantom pregnancies which in some bitches causes a lot of distress.

Disadvantages.

It is a common fallacy that a neutered dog will become fat and lazy. Remember that all service animals, Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Dogs for the Disabled are routinely neutered. Judicious feeding of a scientifically prepared complete diet without excessive treats should adequately control any problems of obesity, just as it does in the entire animal.

Another common fallacy is that the neutered dog loses character. Admittedly neutering is often carried out, both in dogs and bitches for certain behavioural abnormalities and often dogs will become gentler, neither losing their spirit nor their intelligence. Providing they are not allowed to become obese they are just as active as the entire counterpart.

Thus there are many advantages and few disadvantages to having your dog neutered.

Both dogs and bitches are usually neutered between 6-12 months of age although the operation can be carried out at any time. Your veterinary surgeon will be more than happy to discuss the details with you.

This client information sheet is based on material written by Trevor Turner, BVetMed, MRCVS, FRSH, MCI Arb, MAE.

Used with permission under license.

©Lifelearn Ltd, PO Box 16, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7TH