

Neutering your male dog

On average 14 dogs per day were "put to sleep" in Ireland last year (2010).



YOU can help dramatically lower this unnecessary statistic by having **your** dog neutered.

Many dog owners choose not to neuter male dogs because they cannot become pregnant. Some male owners are guilty of "humanizing" their dog and feel like they are depriving him of his "man-hood", so it is important to be aware of the many **behavioural** and **health benefits** before making a decision.

The jargon

Castration is the term used to describe the surgical removal of a male dog's testicles.

The benefits of castration

Castration has been shown to reduce urine marking, mounting and roaming. It may also reduce or eliminate aggression that is influenced by male hormones.

Castration eliminates the risk of testicular cancer (second most common tumour in the male dog!) and greatly reduces the chance of prostatic disease. Both are extremely common and serious problems in older male dogs.

When to castrate?

The surgical veterinary team at UCD recommends that male dogs should be neutered at 5-6 months of age.

Are there any disadvantages?

No detrimental effects on behaviour or health have been found to date regarding castration.

The cost

The exact cost should be discussed with your local veterinary practice, if you are in receipt of social welfare payments or a state pension please ask if the practice participates in the Dogs Trust Neutering Scheme.

Common myths

"Neutering is cruel"

Nobody wants to put their pet through an operation but the only way we can prevent the needless destruction of thousands of dogs every year in this country is to neuter our pets, not to mention the health benefits listed above.

"The operation will make my dog fat and lazy"

Correct nutritional adjustments (as advised by your local veterinary practice after neutering) and adequate exercise will prevent your dog from gaining weight. A dog cannot become overweight by himself; he has to be overfed and/or under-exercised.

"My dog never goes outside alone"

Male dogs have been known to jump walls, dig under fences and bolt out through open doors to get to a female in heat and are often sadly killed by cars in the process.

"My dog is a thoroughbred!"

Pounds and rescue organisations all over Ireland have pedigree dogs!

"It will change my dog's personality"

A dog's personality will not be altered by castration! He will be free from sexual frustration and therefore calmer and more content not to wander. It also usually reduces aggressive male hormone driven behaviours.

Source of information: www.spayweekireland.ie