

Should I Neuter / Spay my dog?

Unless you plan to use your pet for breeding (or due to show regulations), we recommend that your dog be neutered at 6 to 8 months of age. There are several health benefits to neutering your dog and the risks of surgery are minimal, especially when done at a young age.



FEMALES. Spaying (ovariohysterectomy) involves an abdominal surgery in which the ovaries and uterus are removed. Spaying is usually performed at 6 to 8 months of age. Of course this can be done at any age, with health benefits.

Some of the benefits of spaying a female dog include:

- Eliminating unwanted heats and the annoying behavior associated with the estrus cycle, including attracting stray dogs to your property.
- Eliminates the messy discharge and odor associated with estrus.
- Greatly reducing the risk of mammary cancer (if done prior to the first heat).
- Protecting your cat against the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and uterine infection (pyometra).
- Helping control the pet population crisis by preventing unwanted pregnancies.

There is no scientific evidence that your dog will in any way benefit from having a heat cycle or a litter before spaying. A female used for breeding purposes should be spayed after her last litter has been weaned.

MALES. Castration of a dog is a surgical procedure in which the testicles are removed. Neutering a male dog at 6 to 8 months of age will help eliminate many unwanted behavioral problems that develop with sexual maturity and can significantly lengthen your dog's life.

Some of the benefits of castrating a male dog include:

- Helping to eliminate the lifting his leg to mark his territory both outdoors and in your home.
- Eliminating roaming in search of females. If allowed to run loose, he may fight with other males, be injured, killed by automobiles, or get lost. If confined he may become hyper active or aggressive.
- Reduces the chance of developing prostate infections. Also reduces perianal cancer and eliminates testicular cancer. These are all problems of older intact males.
- Helping to control the pet population crisis by avoiding unwanted pregnancies.
- Reduces the chance of your dog later biting or being aggressive towards other dogs and humans. Statistics show that most dog bites are inflicted by intact males.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Neutering your pet will not cause him or her to get fat or lazy.