



CASTRATION OF THE DOG (NEUTERING)

Castration of the male dog is the removal of both testes through a small incision in front of the scrotum. The operation is done at our clinic Monday through Friday as an outpatient surgery. A great deal of care is used to maintain your pet's health during his stay at our hospital. All pets receive pre-operative blood tests and a physical exam prior to receiving any anesthesia. IV catheters are placed as an added safety precaution and for the administration of IV fluids prior to and during the procedure. All patients are monitored very carefully using the latest equipment, by well-trained staff and certified veterinary technicians. All are given pain relief medication before and after the procedure as well as being sent home with medication for their continued recovery at home.

BENEFITS OF NEUTERING

Neutering will prevent your dog from reproducing. We strongly encourage adoption from Humane Societies as millions of pets are needlessly destroyed each year from unwanted pregnancies. **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO MEDICAL BENEFIT TO THE MALE DOG TO MATE WITH A FEMALE DOG.**

Neutering prevents a number of serious medical problems including testicular cancer. It also virtually eliminates the chances of your pet developing benign prostate enlargement and associated infections, which can be very painful. Male hormone influenced tumors, which develop around the anus and base of the tail and painful perineal hernias are also less likely to occur.

Along with preventing serious medical problems, neutering may help reduce some hormone influenced behaviors such as roaming, urine marking, inappropriate sexual behavior and dominant aggression. Surgery does not however interfere with a dog's natural tendency to protect his masters or property. Neutering does **NOT** cause a change in personality or make your pet gain weight. However, since the operation is performed when your pet's growth has slowed down, we need to closely monitor his weight and if necessary adjust the amount of calories he consumes and his exercise level.

THE BEST TIME FOR NEUTERING

We recommend neutering your pet at 6 months of age. Smaller breeds should wait until all of the permanent teeth are in (7-8 months) in case we need to extract any baby teeth that have not fallen out. Neutering your pet when he is young offers the greatest long term benefits.

POSTOPERATIVE CARE

Your dog should be confined to the house and restricted to a leash when outside for 7 days following the surgery. Your pet may be left home alone during the days immediately following surgery as long as he's confined. Most dogs can resume normal activity including bathing after 7 days. Sutures are placed beneath the surface of the skin and will be absorbed over time.