

NEUTERING YOUR DOG

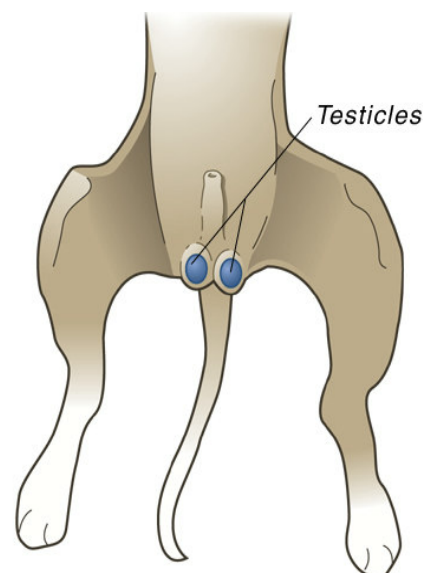
Why do you recommend that I have my dog neutered?

Medical benefits:

Neutering your dog will help him stay as healthy as possible throughout his life. Neutering eliminates the possibility of testicular cancer and greatly reduces the chance of prostate disease, two extremely common and serious problems of older male dogs. Neutering can also reduce the risk of perianal tumors and perineal hernias.

Behavioral Benefits:

- **Urine Marking:** Neutering reduces marking in 80% of dogs with a marked improvement in 40%. Most adult male dogs lift their legs while urinating. Instead of emptying their bladders completely, most male dogs retain some urine to deposit on other vertical objects that they pass. Some males have such a strong desire to mark that they also mark indoors.
- **Undesirable sexual behavior:** Attraction to female dogs, roaming, and mounting can be reduced or eliminated by neutering. Roaming is of special concern because of the risk of being hit by a car.
- **Decreased aggression:** Every aggressive dog should be neutered. At the very least this will prevent reproduction and passing on of any genetic traits for aggression. Neutering may also reduce or eliminate some forms of aggression (i.e. those that are influenced by male hormones).



Population control:

Perhaps the most important issue is that millions of dogs are destroyed annually at animal shelters across the United States and Canada. Neutering your dog ensures that you are doing your part to help reduce pet overpopulation.

Are there any negative behavioral effects from neutering?

A dog's temperament, training, personality, or ability to do work will not be affected by neutering. These behaviors are a result of genetics and upbringing, not of male hormones. The only behaviors that will be affected by neutering are those that are under the influence of male hormones, which are listed in the "Behavioral Benefits" section above.

When should the procedure be performed?

Research reveals that neutering a pet at an early age does not cause any increased risk. We recommend neutering between four and six months of age.



Routine and Urgent Veterinary Care
for Dogs, Cats and Exotic Pets

Accredited Practice, American Animal Hospital Association

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Are there any risks?

Nowadays, with the broad selection of modern anesthetic agents and with our state of the art monitoring, anesthetic or surgical complications in a neuter are very rare.

My dog has retained testicles - what does this mean?

During fetal development or shortly after birth, the testicles will descend into the scrotal sac. In some dogs, likely due to a genetic predisposition, the testicles may not descend into the scrotal sac. These dogs are known as either unilateral (one testicle) or bilateral (both testicles) cryptorchids. The testicle may be retained in the abdomen or anywhere between the abdominal cavity and the external sac. Retained testicles do not usually produce sperm, but they will produce hormones. In fact, some studies have shown that retained testicles may be more prone to developing cancer. At the very least, it would be extremely difficult to determine if a testicle, which is located in the abdomen, begins to develop cancer, since it cannot be palpated. All dogs with retained testicles should be neutered (and both testicles removed) for medical and behavioral reasons, and to ensure that this genetic abnormality is not perpetuated.

How should I prepare my pet for the procedure?

Do not allow your pet to eat after 10pm the night before surgery. You may leave water available, but only in small amounts. Do not let them gulp down a large amount. In most cases your pet's doctor will advise you to administer any regular medications as you usually would. Check with your pet's doctor if you have specific questions regarding medications the morning of surgery.

What happens during this procedure?

When you bring in your pet on the day of his neuter, you will meet with an admit technician who will review your estimate with you and go over any preferences or questions you may have before you drop him off. A deposit will be taken, and you will need to fill out some forms.

The admit technician will explain that once your pet is brought back to the Treatment area, their Pre-Op will begin. A Pre-anesthetic exam will be performed by their doctor, and pre-anesthetic bloodwork will be drawn and run in our in-house laboratory. Pre-anesthetic bloodwork is important to ensure that your pet is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia and that their body will be able to process the anesthetic agents properly.

If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized. Some pets may have an intravenous catheter placed to administer the anesthetic or to provide fluid therapy during the surgery, and it allows us immediate access should your pet require additional medications.

After your pet is anesthetized, a breathing tube will be placed in his trachea or windpipe. This will allow the delivery of oxygen and the gas anesthetic directly into the lungs.

The surgery consists of making an incision just in front of the scrotal sac and removing both testicles, leaving the sac intact. The procedure usually takes 20-30 minutes. Vasectomies are not performed since it is





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both sterilization and removal of the male hormones that provide the behavioral and medical benefits. Your pet may have non-absorbable sutures that will need to be removed ten to fourteen days after surgery, or absorbable sutures that do not need to be removed.

How soon can my pet go home after his neuter?

Your pet will need 3-4 hours to recover here at the hospital following their surgery. The technician or the doctor will call you to let you know that the procedure is finished and that your pet is in recovery, and they will schedule a discharge appointment time for you to come in and meet with our discharge technician.

The discharge technician will review the instructions from the doctor about aftercare, go over any medications that have been prescribed, and answer any additional questions you may have.

What is the approximate cost?

	Under age 5	Over age 5
Under 50 lbs	\$300	\$345
Over 50 lbs	\$330	\$375

This includes the Preanesthetic Exam, Preanesthetic Bloodwork, Anesthesia, the Neuter Surgery, E-Collar to go home, and a Complementary Toe Nail Trim. If your pet is over 75 lbs, or is a crypt orchid, additional charges will apply.

Are there any post-operative precautions I should take?

After undergoing anesthesia, your pet will probably still be a little tired for the rest of the day. You should keep him quiet and confined, and keep him away from things like pools, decks, and stairs for the remainder of the day. It is important to allow him to rest quietly, away from other pets and small children.

After your pet has settled in at home for about 30 minutes or so, you can offer small amounts of water. If no vomiting occurs for 30 minutes after that, then small amounts of food may be given. If any vomiting occurs, withhold food until the next day, but leave water available.

Although the incision is the only evidence of surgery you can see, your pet is healing on the inside as well, and even if he isn't showing any signs of pain or discomfort, it is important to keep his activity restricted. This means no running, jumping, or climbing stairs, and no activity that induces excitement. You may want to restrict him to a portion of the house to help keep him calm.

If you are having trouble keeping your pet calm, please call to discuss options with the doctor. They may prescribe some sedatives to ensure the healing process is allowed to continue.

You will also need to ensure that your pet cannot chew or lick at his incision site. Even if the sutures remain intact, an infection could develop if your pet is allowed to chew or lick the site. There are various aids you may need to use in keeping your pet away from their incision site:



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- Elizabethan Collar (E-Collar)
- Bite-not collar
- Inflatable collar
- T-shirt

Inspect the incision every day and call us if you see any redness, swelling, or discharge. These could be signs of infection, and require medical attention. Too much activity can cause an infection at the incision site.

Rest and restriction of activity are the primary post-operative care you should provide. Most dogs can resume normal activity ten to fourteen days after surgery. Until then, leash walks, no running or climbing stairs and lots of rest are the rule.

If non-absorbable sutures were used, you need to call to make an appointment to have these sutures removed 10-14 days after the surgery.

During the appointment we will bring your pet to the back, inspect the incision site, remove the sutures, and answer any additional questions you may have.

If you are concerned or have any questions, please call us anytime at (925) 866-8387.