

Henlow Veterinary Hospital

DOG NEUTERING

WHY should I neuter my MALE Dog?

The decision whether or not to have your male dog neutered (or “castrated”) can be daunting and there can seem to be a lot of contradictory information available on the subject. Here at the Henlow Veterinary Centre we recommend that male dogs are neutered from 6 months of age on health grounds and this recommendation is based on scientific evidence.

There are some more recent studies which suggest that optimum neutering age varies with some breeds. Please do ask our vets and nurses about your breed of dog before booking in.



WHAT does having my DOG neutered entail?

The procedure involves removing your pet's testicles under a general anaesthetic, which usually just requires your pet to be with us as a day patient. Castration will prevent your dog from being able to mate with a female dog, resulting in pregnancy and it also may curtail undesirable behaviour.

Here at Henlow Veterinary Centre we also recommend that your pet is protected against lungworm before his surgery and we suggest giving Nexgard Spectra or applying Advocate at least one month before his surgery is booked.

WHAT are the health benefits of neutering my DOG?

- Eliminates the risk of your pet developing testicular cancer, which is the second most common tumour in male dogs. This is particularly important if your dog is found to have a cryptorchid (undescended) testicle.
- Neutering also protects your pet against prostatic diseases commonly seen in unneutered dogs including inflammation and overgrowth of the prostate gland.
- Unneutered dogs can be prone to developing hernias, in particular “perineal hernia” a painful condition which makes it very difficult for the sufferer to pass motions and requires specialist surgery to correct. Castrating your pet will prevent your pet from developing this condition.



Are there any down sides to castrating my dog?

It is recognised that neutered dogs are more likely to become overweight, particularly in some breeds. However, it is a myth that once the weight is put on that it is much more difficult to lose than if the dog was entire and we recommend monitoring your pets' weight after he has been neutered and be prepared to reduce his food intake if necessary.

Many people request their dog is castrated in the hope of remedying an unwanted or undesirable behaviour, such as excessive sexual behaviours or aggression.

Unfortunately the effect of castration on behaviour is not guaranteed and we recommend discussing your concerns with one of our veterinary surgeons if you would like your dog neutered for behavioural reasons. We have a chemical implant which can be tried instead of surgical castration if you would like a reversible treatment, to see how castration affects your dog's behaviour.

The procedure requires that your pet undergoes a general anaesthetic, which has inherent risks.

At the Henlow Veterinary Centre we give all patients a thorough pre-anaesthetic examination to minimise the risk of general anaesthetic, and we only use qualified nurses to assist during surgical procedures.

We will also discuss with you the option to check a pre-anaesthetic blood sample to see if there are any specific underlying concerns which may affect the anaesthesia and we have the option to give your dog intravenous fluids to help his circulation during the operation if this is considered necessary.

If any of the above issues concern you, or you have heard anything elsewhere regarding neutering that you are worried may affect your pet, then please do not hesitate to book an appointment with one of our veterinary surgeons to discuss your concerns.

On the basis of current evidence, our veterinary team at Henlow Veterinary Centre recommend male dogs are neutered from 6 months of age.

