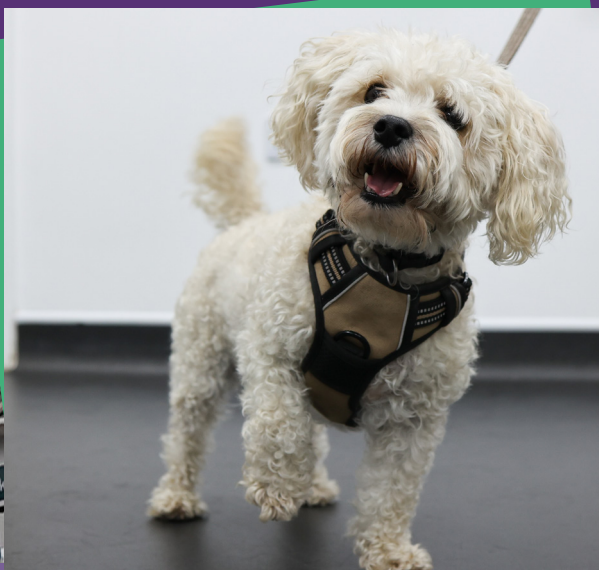# Henlow Veterinary Hospital
CHEMICAL CASTRATION

Chemical castration provides the opportunity to temporarily test the effects of surgical castration to see if it is the right decision.

WHAT is Chemical Castration?

At Henlow Vets, we always try to make sure we can offer a range of options so that we can tailor our treatment plans to suit each individual pet.

Traditional castration of male dogs and cats involves surgery, but did you know that there is a chemical alternative?

Permanent surgical castration is not always the best option for a patient, particularly if they have any underlying anxiety or confidence issues. Chemical castration provides the opportunity to temporarily test the effects of surgical castration to see if it is the right decision.

HOW DOES Chemical Castration Work?

Chemical castration involves inserting an implant, a bit like a microchip; which contains a drug called 'deslorelin'. This mimics the effects of naturally occurring hormones to inhibit testosterone production by the testes and thus gives a good indication to how a patient will be affected by surgery.

There are two different strengths of implant available which last for approximately 6 or 12 months. After this time, the effects gradually wear off, and we then have the option of either repeating the implant or if we are happy with the response seen, at this stage we may recommend permanent surgical castration. Often the implant can be inserted with the patient conscious, but for the more anxious we recommend a light sedation.

THE PROCESS & EFFECTS

Once the implant has been inserted, it is normal to see reduction in reduction of the testes.

It will also suppress behaviours which are driven by testosterone levels, however it will not reduce behaviours which have already been learned.

It therefore always important to remember that castration, either surgical or chemical, should never be relied on for entirely correcting unwanted behaviours.

To find out more, please do not hesitate to contact us at the surgery.

HENLOW VETERINARY HOSPITAL