

Why neuter my dog?

‘Neutering’ is the removal of the genital organs of an animal so that it can no longer breed. In the male, this is the testicles (also known as castration), in the female, the uterus and ovaries (also known as speying or hysterectomy).

Neutering is recommended as part of responsible pet care for a number of reasons. Neutered dogs usually require less food than entire animals of the same size (although care must be taken not to overfeed them)



Castration of male dogs at or before puberty reduces the risk of:

- Testosterone-linked dominance or aggression
- Roaming or escaping to find bitches in season
- Territorial urine marking eg in the house
- Prostatic disease
- Certain types of cancer of the anus, testicles and prostate

Speying a bitch before the first season:

- Prevents serious uterine disease such as cancer or pyometra
- Reduces the risk of mammary tumours (breast cancer)
- Prevents seasons i.e., no unpleasant vaginal discharge, no need to keep her away from other dogs
- Prevents unwanted pregnancy



When should I neuter my dog?

Riverside recommend neutering your dog at 5 months old. Surgery is carried out on a day-patient basis, with regular post-operative check-ups ensuring a rapid and comfortable recovery.

If your bitch is older than this, she can be neutered at any time as long as she is not in season (or within 1 month of a season).

Are there any disadvantages?

All anaesthetics carry a small risk, but at Riverside we treat all animals as individuals, with carefully balanced doses of medication. Young and healthy animals on the whole cope well with the neutering procedures, and problems are rare.

Some dogs can experience changes in their coat texture following neutering, occasionally becoming more fluffy. This is more common in breeds with flat, silky coats such as spaniels and setters.

Neutering is an irreversible procedure, so you should not proceed if you plan to breed from your dog in the future.

