



Neutering Your Dog

If you're keeping a male dog as a pet, neutering is an important consideration for your pet's health and behavior. Remember that guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for deaf people, and dogs for the disabled are routinely neutered, and this does not impair their ability to perform their duties.

Why Neuter My Dog?

Neutering brings important health and behavioral benefits:

- Reduces risk of **prostate disease** (benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatitis)
- Eliminates the risk of **testicular cancer**
- Decreases hormone-driven diseases like **perianal adenoma**
- Reduces **roaming** and **sexual urges**
- Can help lessen certain types of **aggression**

Neutering is often used **medically** to treat testicular tumors, prostate problems, or hormone-related conditions later in life.

Addressing Common Myths

Some common concerns include:

- **Obesity and Laziness:**
With proper diet and exercise, you can easily prevent obesity in both neutered and intact dogs.
- **Personality and Instincts:**
Neutering does not change your dog's personality, guarding instincts, intelligence, playfulness, or affection.

Is there an alternative to surgery?

Recent advances in non-surgical neutering involve injecting a compound directly into the testicle. Discuss this treatment option with your veterinarian to determine if it's appropriate for your pet.

When Should My Dog Be Neutered?

- **Most veterinarians recommend neutering around 6 months of age.**
- Early neutering (common in shelters) is safe, too.
- Your veterinarian can help determine the best timing based on your dog's breed, size, and lifestyle.

What Happens During the Procedure?

- **Pre-Surgical Evaluation:**

Your dog will undergo an examination and pre-anesthetic blood tests to ensure he's healthy for surgery.

- **Anesthesia:**

Your dog will receive general anesthesia, an IV catheter for anesthetic delivery and fluids, and oxygen via a breathing tube.

- **The Surgery:**

A small incision is made in front of the scrotum to remove the testicles. Internal absorbable sutures are often used, so there's no need for suture removal.

Post-Operative Care

After surgery:

- **Limit activity** for 5–10 days (leash walks only, no rough play, no bathing or swimming).
- Your veterinarian will provide specific instructions for a smooth recovery.

With today's anesthetic protocols, neutering is a **very safe** procedure, with a much lower risk of complications than many everyday hazards like car accidents.