

Neutering Advice MALE DOGS



AGE

Dogs can be castrated from 6 months old if they are a small to medium breed, from 12 months old if they are a large breed (e.g. Labrador) and from 18 months old if they are a giant breed (e.g. Great Dane, Bernese mountain dog).

DOG CASTRATION PRICE:

< 25kg - £274.43 | > 25kg - £320.17

REASONS FOR NEUTERING

- There is no overall medical benefit to castration other than to prevent testicular cancer and prostate disease (though the more severe form of prostate cancer is more common in neutered (castrated) males).
- More placid temperament - this is not guaranteed.
- Reduction in testosterone driven behaviours such as urine marking and mounting bitches in heat – this is not guaranteed.

Please feel free to book an appointment if you would like to discuss these options further



DISADVANTAGES OF NEUTERING

- Weight gain - dogs are twice as likely to become obese when castrated so please keep an eye on his weight and adjust his diet accordingly. This is due to their metabolism going down and their appetite going up.
- Potential changes in temperament might be disadvantageous in some working dogs.
- Dogs being castrated for behavioural reasons should have a full behavioural assessment first to ensure neutering is the right decision as it has the potential to increase nervous/aggressive behaviour.
- Possible hair coat changes.
- Growth rate – early neutering may cause a reduction in growth and development as it can cause a delay in the closure of growth plates in bone. This can lead to an increased risk of cruciate disease.

RISKS/COMPLICATIONS OF SURGERY

- Wound breakdown.
- Haemorrhage (bleeding during surgery) – very low risk.
- Anaesthetic complications - please let us know if you have a “do not resuscitate” request for your pet. Otherwise, every effort will take place to resuscitate them in the event of an emergency.
- Pain – some degree of discomfort can be expected but we aim to reduce this as much as possible.
- Drug reactions.
- Patients that have *NOT been treated recently and routinely* with prescription-only parasite control products are at a *higher risk of lungworm infection, these prescription only products are:*
 - *Simparica Trio*
 - *NexGard Spectra*
 - *Advocate*
 - *Prinovox / Prinocate*
 - *Milbemax / Milpro*
 - *Panacur (treats lungworm but does not provide ongoing prevention)*

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Lungworm infection can interfere with normal blood clotting. Undiagnosed lungworm increases the risk of bleeding during surgery. If you prefer not to treat regularly, but wish to give some treatment prior to the surgical procedure, then we can provide a one off treatment for lungworm that means you don't have to invest in a whole packet of the product.

We can also perform an in-house lungworm blood test prior to anaesthesia at an additional cost of £50.40. However, please be aware that false negatives are possible, and a recent history of appropriate lungworm prevention remains the most reliable protection.

THE PROCEDURE

Castration is removal of the testicles. They are removed through a single incision by cutting carefully through the skin in front of the scrotum. The scrotum is left behind though this will gradually reduce in size over time.

During development, the testicles move down from inside the abdomen into the scrotum. Usually both will have descended by the time a puppy is seen for vaccinations around 2 months of age. If one or both testicles have not descended into the scrotum at this point, this will need to be checked later. If either or both of the testicles stay inside the abdomen, they will be at greater risk of developing cancer in later life, so castration is usually advised. The operation to remove an undescended testicle is a more invasive and complicated operation than removal from the scrotum.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

Where possible, dogs will be given a pre-medication injection (sedative) with you present to keep them as relaxed as possible. Therefore, their admit time will depend on when we expect to start the procedure – this can be as late as 3pm on some days. Please make sure you book the surgery on a day that you are available for the whole day. There is also a small chance that the admission time will change on the day if we have unexpected emergencies, but we will contact you with as much warning as possible if this is the case.

ON THE DAY

A catheter will be placed into a vein to allow intravenous access for drugs to be given and for in the case of an emergency. A patch of fur on the front legs and/or back legs will be shaved for this. The operation site will also be generously clipped to help to maintain sterility.

You can expect your pet to be with us for at least 1 to 2 hours on the day. He will be slightly sleepy when he comes home, and we strongly recommend not walking him after his surgery (on the day) other than for toileting purposes.

POST OP CARE

- One of the team will discuss all the discharge instructions with you fully on the day and you will also get a hard copy of these to take home.
- We recommend feeding a bland diet for dinner on the day of surgery, such as chicken/boiled rice/scrambled egg/a specific gastrointestinal diet.
- We usually recommend rest for 10-14 days. Walks are allowed during this, but he must be always kept on lead and not given any freedom to run, jump or play.
- You will be given some additional pain relief, usually to be started the day following the surgery. We will discuss this with you when you come to collect him.
- We don't usually need to see your pet back unless you have any concerns.

 If you have any questions, our Nurse Team will be happy to discuss them with you. Please contact us on info@islandvetcare.co.uk or call (01983) 214747 and ask to speak with one of our nurses.