

NEUTERING YOUR DOG

We recommend neutering all male pets. Male dogs are attracted to female dog in heat and will climb over or go through fences to find her. Male dogs that are not neutered are more aggressive and more likely to fight, especially with other male dogs. The benefits to your pet's health and to help reduce the pet overpopulation crisis make this decision easier. Dr. Travis/Tiller recommends neutering between five and six months.

There are several advantages of neutering your dog

- Reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis
- Reduces the risk of hormone-related diseases such as perianal adenoma
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common cancer in intact dogs
- Removal of sexual urges, which usually decreases roaming behaviors
- Reduction of certain types of aggression

Perceived disadvantages

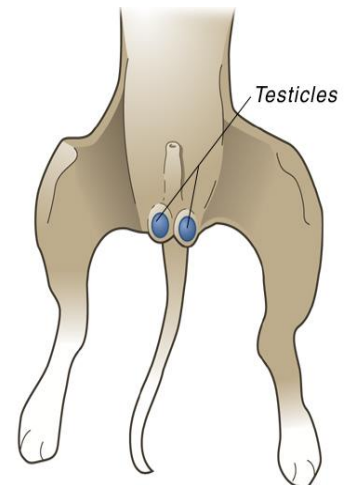
Many pet owners have perceived disadvantages of neutering their pet. Some of the misconceived disadvantages include: pets will become obese or lazy, or develop a change in personality. Obesity, the most common of these concerns, is a result of overfeeding and a lack of physical activity not due to neutering your pet. By regulating these factors obesity can be prevented.

Anesthesia and your pet

Neutering is considered a major operation and requires general anesthesia. Many pet owners worry unnecessarily about anesthesia in their pets. Although anesthesia can never be completely free of risk, general anesthesia has become safer in recent years with the advent of newer drugs and better patient monitoring. We recommend a pre-surgical blood profile to ensure that your pet is in a low risk category prior to procedure. This profile is similar to tests human physicians require before their patient goes under anesthesia. The results of these tests provide vital information about the functioning of internal organs, particularly the liver and kidneys.

The procedure

Your pet will be examined by Dr. Travis/Tiller and pre-anesthetic blood tests will usually be performed. If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized. After your pet is anesthetized, a breathing tube will be placed in her trachea or windpipe. This will allow the delivery of oxygen and the gas anesthetic directly into the lungs. A technician closely monitors the heart rate and respiration rate during the entire surgery, and monitors your pet after surgery. The surgery consists of making a small incision in front of the scrotum and removing the testicles. Dr. Travis/Tiller uses absorbable sutures so that you do not have to return to have them removed.



SPAYING YOUR DOG

We recommend spaying all female pets. Almost all unspayed female dogs will eventually develop either mammary tumors (breast cancer) or severe uterine infection called pyometra. The benefits to your pet's health and to help reduce the pet overpopulation crisis make this decision easier. Dr. Travis/Tiller recommends spaying between five and six months.

There are several advantages of spaying your dog

- Prevention of "heat" or estrus
- When in "heat", the female experiences an urge to escape in order to find a mate. This unwanted and dangerous behavior is eliminated.
- It eliminates the possibility of false pregnancy following the "heat cycle"
- Prevention of uterine infection known as pyometra
- The prevention of breast cancer. Dogs spayed before the first "heat" have less than 0.5% chance of developing breast cancer.
- Elimination of the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer

Perceived disadvantages

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Anesthesia and your pet

Spaying is considered a major operation and requires general anesthesia. Many pet owners worry unnecessarily about anesthesia in their pets. Although anesthesia can never be completely free of risk, general anesthesia has become safer in recent years with the advent of newer drugs and better patient monitoring. We recommend a pre-surgical blood profile to ensure that your pet is in a low risk category prior to procedure. This profile is similar to tests human physicians require before their patient goes under anesthesia. The results of these tests provide vital information about the functioning of internal organs, particularly the liver and kidneys.

The procedure

Your pet will be examined by Dr. Travis/Tiller and pre-anesthetic blood tests will usually be performed. If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized. After your pet is anesthetized, a breathing tube will be placed in her trachea or windpipe. This will allow the delivery of oxygen and the gas anesthetic directly into the lungs. A technician closely monitors the heart rate and respiration rate during the entire surgery, and monitors your pet after surgery. The surgery consists of making a small incision just below the umbilicus and removing the ovaries and uterus. Dr. Travis/Tiller uses absorbable sutures so that you do not have to return to have them removed.

