

Neutering Your Dog

Why should I have my dog neutered?

- 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
- Removal of sexual urge which results in less roaming behaviors
- Reduction of certain types of aggression
- Reduces undesirable urination behavior

What are the disadvantages?

Most of the perceived disadvantages are false. The most quoted of these are that the dog will become fat, characterless, and lazy. Obesity is probably the most commonly quoted disadvantage of neutering. Obesity is the result of overfeeding. By regulating your dog's diet and calorie intake, you can prevent obesity in neutered or intact males. Neutering doesn't cause a change in personality, guarding instincts, intelligence, playfulness, and affection.

When should the operation be performed?

Research reveals that neutering a pet at an early age does not cause any increased risk. We recommend neutering at 6 months of age, although it is never too late.

Is there any alternative to surgery?

Not at the present time.

Are there any dangers associated to surgery?

Neutering is considered a major operation and requires general anesthesia. With today's modern anesthetics and monitoring equipment, the risk of a complication is very low. It has been said that your pet has a greater chance of being injured in a car wreck than having an anesthetic or surgical complication.

What happens when I leave my dog for this procedure?

Your pet will be examined and pre-anesthetic blood tests are usually performed. If everything is acceptable your pet will then be anesthetized. Most pets will have an intravenous catheter placed to administer the anesthetic and to provide fluid therapy during the surgery. After your pet is anesthetized a breathing tube will be placed in his trachea (windpipe). This will allow us to deliver oxygen and the gas anesthetic. The surgery consists of making a small incision in the front of the scrotum and removing the testicles.

Are there any post-operative precautions I should take?

Medication will be dispensed on discharge to relieve your pet of any discomfort after surgery. Rest and restriction of activity are the primary post-operative care you should provide. Most dogs can resume normal activity five to ten days after surgery. Until then, leash walks no running or jumping and lots of rest is the rule. Medication will be dispensed on discharge to relieve any post-surgical discomfort your pet may have.

To answer any question, please call Bridletowne Warden Animal Hospital at 416-491-8706.