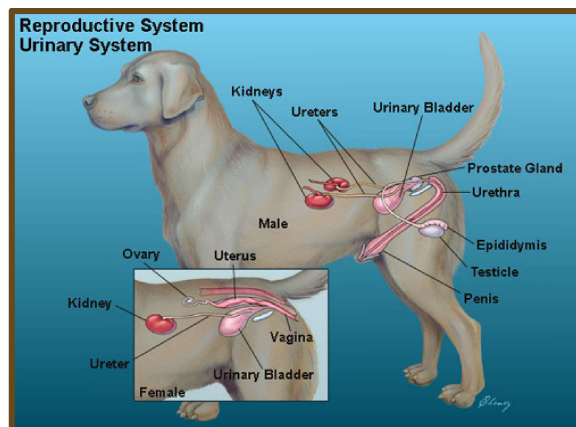




# Dog Neuter

The technical term for a "dog neuter" is a "*canine orchiectomy*" and it refers to *the complete removal of the testicles*. A neutered dog can not cause a female dog to become pregnant. He will have a significantly reduced risk of health problems such as cancer of the testicles and problems with the prostate gland later in life. Removing the testicles removes the major source of testosterone, the male hormone that causes undesirable behaviours such as increased aggression towards other dogs, roaming and marking territory with urine.

**What's involved with having my puppy neutered?** Neutering involves surgery and general anesthesia for your puppy. The hair will be clipped away from the scrotum and an incision will be made over each testicle. The entire testicle will be removed. He will not likely have any sutures or stitches visible on the skin. There will be dissolving sutures in the layers of tissue underneath. Some dogs may have a testicle which is not in the scrotum and a separate abdominal incision must be made to remove it (cryptorchid).



At Sault Ste. Marie Animal Clinic, your puppy will enjoy the benefits of **Laser Surgery**. Using a surgical laser instead of traditional scalpel results in significantly less bleeding, swelling and pain for the patient!

For added safety, we recommend a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screen** prior to your pet undergoing general anesthesia and surgery.

**When should I schedule the surgery?** We like to book the appointment for your puppy's neuter when he is in for his final booster/rabies vaccination at four months of age. The recommended age for surgery will vary with puppy's breed/size but probably somewhere between six months to a year of age. Your puppy will be admitted to the hospital between 8:00-8:30 the morning of the procedure and likely be discharged late afternoon of the same day.

**When your puppy is in for his neutering, it is an ideal time to have a microchip implanted if it hasn't been done already.** It is also a good time to have any baby teeth that are still present extracted and to remove any floppy dewclaws that might cause future problems.



**Our top priority is keeping your pet safe and comfortable:**

- Comprehensive, multi-stage anesthetic protocol including sedatives and pain killers for your pet's mental and physical comfort
- Patients are placed on warming pads and closely monitored throughout procedure using a combination of advanced heart and respiratory monitors as well as experienced "hands on" observation
- We follow rigorous sterile technique, always use separate surgical packs for each patient, individual packets of sterilized suture material and surgical drapes and the veterinarian will wear a sterilized surgical gown, gloves, and a cap and mask

**At what age should my puppy be neutered? The debate continues!!** Traditionally, dogs were spayed and neutered at six months of age - prior to reaching puberty - so that the procedure is technically easier to do and associated with fewer complications. For female dogs, it virtually eliminates the risk of developing mammary cancer as she gets older. **Some shelters and breeders perform 'pediatric' spays and neuters on very young puppies** so that the pet is sterilized prior to being adopted into a new home. This is an effort to eliminate unwanted pregnancy and reduce pet overpopulation.

**Recent research suggests that there may be some health benefits to allowing larger breed puppies to go through puberty before spaying or neutering.** This appears to be particularly important for promoting healthy growth and development of bones and joints. The bottom line at this time is that there is no 'one size fits all' answer as to the best age to neuter. Rest assured, we will make a recommendation specific to your puppy based on breed, predicted size and lifestyle - usually between 6 months and a year of age.