

# DOG NEUTER

The technical term for a "dog neuter" is a "canine orchidectomy" 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).

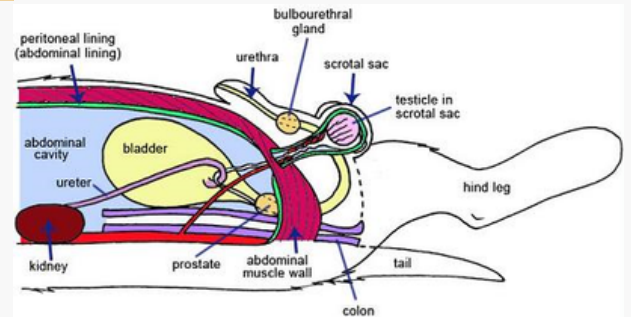


**Our top priority is keeping your pet safe and comfortable:**

- **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, cap and mask

When your puppy is in for their surgery, it is a good time to:

- have a **microchip** implanted
- remove remaining baby teeth
- 'remove floppy' rear dew claws
- correct umbilical hernias
- For larger breed dogs, it is also a good time to consider a 'gastropexy' to prevent GDV or twisted stomach.



For added safety, we perform 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.

**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. 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. Waiting until a male puppy has reached puberty before neutering will result in a more masculine looking dog - shorter and stockier with a broader head and chest.

**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 to promote 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 what age to spay or 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.