



ALL CARE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

All About Neutering

Why do it ?

Spaying and neutering should be the natural choice for all pet owners. Apart from population control, there is clear evidence that early neutering is better for the health of the individual animal. Literally thousands of unwanted dogs are destroyed in Ireland each year and huge sums of money are spent rescuing unloved animals. Be responsible and neuter your pet.

When to do it ?

The latest recommendations from surgical staff at UCD are that neutering should be carried out at an earlier age than has previously been suggested. It is now recommended that:

- Both male and female cats should be neutered/spayed at 5-6 months of age
- Both male and female dogs should be neutered/spayed at 6-7 months of age
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What are the benefits of neutering ?

Female Dogs- Spaying will stop the bleeding that occurs with every heat cycle and prevent any changes in behaviour associated with heat cycle. Females that are not spayed, but do not have puppies, may develop false pregnancy or infection in the womb.

However the effect on mammary cancer is the most significant health reason for early spaying of bitches.

- Mammary cancer is the most common type of cancer in the bitch (52% of all tumours)
- Around 50% of mammary tumours are malignant
- Spaying a bitch at a young age dramatically reduces the risk of mammary cancer. If a bitch is neutered before her first season, she is 2,000 times less likely to develop mammary cancer than if she is left entire until she is three years of age.

Male Dogs :

Some male dogs develop antisocial behaviour when they reach maturity. This may be in the form of aggressive or sexual behaviour. Uncastrated dogs, if left to their own devices, may patrol a wide area in the search of a mate and can detect a female in heat a long way away. This will also increase the risk of your animal being involved in a road traffic accident.

Castrating males also reduces the risk of them developing diseases of the prostate or testicles – as testicular cancer, in later life.



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Female Cats :

- Mammary cancer is the third most common form of cancer, though with a lower risk than in female dogs.
- 80% of feline mammary tumours are malignant
- Entire cats are seven times more likely to develop mammary cancer than those spayed at puberty.
- Neutering reduces fighting behaviour by over 80%, significantly reducing cat bite abscesses, as well as reducing the risk of FIV infection.
- Neutering also significantly reduces male urine marking behaviour.
- Neutering reduces wandering making it less likely your pet will be involved in a road traffic accident.

Cats can multiply at an alarming rate leaving large numbers of unwanted kittens. Cats can become pregnant as soon as three weeks after having kittens.

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