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Neutering

Should my dog be neutered?

Bitches:

Unless you are going to use your bitch for breeding purposes it is advised to get your bitch spayed. The recommended age for spaying your bitch is between 5 1/2 months and six months of age, before their first heat.

Dogs:

If your dog is over enthusiastic, is inclined to roam, urine marks excessively or exhibits inter-male aggression with other dogs it is advisable to get him castrated. Male dogs can be castrated from six months of age.

What are the advantages of neutering?

Bitches:

1. Reduces the incidence of breast cancer* - The earlier the bitch is neutered the better. Breast cancer is a common cancer in older animals that aren't neutered.
2. Reduces womb infections – can occur in older animals, they are potentially life threatening.
3. Prevents false pregnancies – not uncommon in the bitch and can cause complications like mastitis.
4. Prevents unwanted pregnancies – sometimes despite all your best efforts these can occur and complications can arise.
5. No need for Confinement – trying to confine your pet for long periods of time while she is in heat can be a nuisance.

Please note spaying will not change your bitches character. Spayed bitches can be inclined to gain weight. Your pet will not gain weight if their exercise and food intake is adjusted.

**According to the Animal health trust, UK. “ Spaying before the first season reduces the risk of breast cancer to 0.05%. Spaying after the first or second season reduces it to 12%. Spaying after the third season has no protective effect at all, nor is there any evidence that having puppies protects against this cancer”*

Dogs:

1. It decreases the risk of testicular and prostate problems later in life
2. It will reduce his tendency to roam.
3. It will reduce aggressiveness towards other dogs.
4. It will stop your pet from trying to mount objects (and people).
5. It will reduce the incidence of urine marking.

Please note castrating your dog will not make him fat and lazy if he gets a good diet and regular exercise!

If you have any further queries about neutering your pet, please get in touch by phone **(021) 489 3033** or email contact@animalcarehospital.ie