Neutering your dog

Neutering is a humane way to reduce the stray dog population, preventing thousands of unwanted puppies being born each year that may be cruelly abandoned or needlessly destroyed.

What is neutering?

'Neutering' means the surgical removal of the reproductive organs in dogs. In the case of males the operation involved is called castration; in females it is called spaying. Most vets will neuter dogs of either sex from the age of about 4 months, although it can be done at any age. If you need any advice on when to neuter your dog, please contact your vet.

What are the benefits of neutering my dog?

Despite many myths on the subject, veterinary experts confirm that neutering has many life-affirming benefits for pets:

- Neutering does not cause fat pets, but a dog's metabolism will slow down after it has been neutered. This means that you will need to feed smaller portions of food than before.
- It is not 'good' for a bitch to have at least one litter before being spayed. If anything, pregnancy causes more risks to them than if they were spayed after their first season.
- Neutering does not change a dog's personality, but some unwanted behaviours may stop. This could include excessive territory marking, straying away from home; destructiveness, and mounting in male dogs.
- Neutering reduces the risk of womb infections and false pregnancies in older female pets. It also saves them from mood swings during season.
- Neutering does not reduce the efficiency of a working dog. In fact, it frees them from hormonal changes and frustrations, leaving them better able to concentrate on their work.

Neutering does not cost a great deal and it's much cheaper than feeding a litter of puppies for a lifetime. Check with your local veterinary surgeon for costs.

For more information or advice about neutering, contact us on:

English line: 01824 706101

Welsh line: 01824 706100