

## What should I do now?

Simply call your local vet to make an appointment! If you are on means-tested benefits and would like more information on our subsidised neutering scheme and of the participating vets nearest to you – call Dogs Trust Neutering Hotline on:

**0845 606 3036**

## Some common questions...

**Do bitches need to have had their first season or a litter of puppies before being spayed?**

No, there are no health-related reasons for waiting until after her first season before spaying a bitch. It is often in the first season that bitches get 'caught' as their owners haven't realised they were in season!

**Will a neutered dog put on weight?**

No, dogs will not put on weight as long as they are fed sensibly and get enough exercise.

**Is neutering natural?**

Keeping a dog in a domestic set-up is not 'natural' either. Where we provide food and exercise for our pet dogs, we also need to take the step of neutering to prevent them from reproducing or becoming frustrated; it is a very simple way to make your dog calmer and happier.



**Be a responsible owner and neuter your dog – it's simply the best choice for you and your pet.**

**If you are interested in rehoming a dog, supporting Dogs Trust or for more information and factsheets about all aspects of dog ownership, please visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) or contact:  
Dogs Trust  
17 Wakley Street  
London  
EC1V 7RQ**

**Tel: 020 7837 0006  
Reg. Charity Numbers: 227523  
and SC037843**

# It's Nicer to Neuter!



## What does neutering mean?

Neutering is a simple operation that prevents male and female dogs from reproducing by removing their sexual organs – for male dogs it is called ‘castration’, and for female dogs the operation is called ‘spaying’. Both are routine procedures carried out under general anaesthetic.

## Why should I neuter my 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. There are lots of reasons why it's nicer to neuter:



## Behaviour

- Neutering encourages calmer, more predictable behaviour – making the dog a more suitable family pet.
- It can help reduce aggressive and unwanted sexual behaviour, preventing fighting, mounting and being destructive. Dogs that have been neutered are also less likely to mark their territory or stray.
- Female dogs usually come into season for about three weeks, twice a year. Whilst in season a bitch may act strangely – trying to run away in search of a mate and needing to be kept away from male dogs.
- Male dogs' behaviour can also change greatly when a local bitch is in season – they may be desperate to escape, even running into busy roads or jumping from high windows.

## Health

- Pregnancy can cause significant health risks to your dog, causing her discomfort and to behave oddly. Neutering your dog also avoids the inconvenience and mess of having seasons.
- Early neutering can reduce the risk of some cancers developing in later life for both male and female dogs. It also stops bitches suffering from potentially fatal womb infections (known as pyometras).

## Money

- Neutering prevents the unnecessary costs of unplanned pregnancies and raising puppies. Plus, by preventing accidents caused by unruly behaviour, costly vets' bills can be avoided.

## When should I get my dog neutered?

Most vets will neuter dogs of either sex from the age of about four months, although it can be done at any age. If you need any advice on when to neuter your dog, contact your vet or Dogs Trust.

## How long will it take my dog to recover?

Recovery time is approximately ten days but will depend on your dog. Your vet will be able to advise you about how to keep your dog calm to ensure they recover quickly.



## How much does neutering cost?

The cost of neutering a dog varies widely depending on their size and breed. An average sized, healthy dog can cost between £60 and £100 to neuter, but larger breeds can cost a lot more. Dogs Trust run a subsidised neutering campaign for dog owners on means-tested benefits in four regions across the UK – the North West, North East, Wales and Northern Ireland. If you are claiming means-tested benefits and live in one of these areas you will qualify to have your dog neutered for a discounted rate.