

MINTLAW VET SURGERY

Dunshilloch Mintlaw AB42 4JN



NEUTERING FEMALE DOGS

We advise you to allow your dog to have her 1st season, and then to arrange for her to be spayed/dressed (ie remove the ovaries and the womb) 2 – 3 months later. In certain circumstances, ie if there is an entire male dog in the household, she can be spayed before her first season, at 6 months of age.

There are multiple benefits in having her spayed – no unwanted puppies to look after, no male dogs calling when she is in season, no problems with exercising when in season, and none of the mess of vulval bleeding.

More important, however, are the health benefits – there is a marked reduction in the risk of mammary tumours, especially if she is done at a young age – this benefit is lost as she gets older. There are also no risks of tumours of the ovaries or womb, and less risk of vaginal tumours. Further benefits include that there is no risk of false pregnancies (when a non pregnant bitch produces milk, and thinks she has puppies) or of pyometra (a life threatening infection of the womb).

As with the male dog, there is a risk of unwanted weight gain if the diet is not closely monitored. There is usually a drop in metabolic rate after this surgery, so less food is required. The surgery provides free weight checks to monitor this!

There is a small risk of urinary incontinence later in life after spaying. This is higher in certain breeds, especially if done before the first season, ie Boxers, Dobermans etc. Urinary incontinence can be easily treated by hormone replacement.

The dog comes in for the day to surgery, and has an incision made on the underside of the abdomen. This goes through the abdominal muscle, so occasionally the patient may feel a bit sorry for herself, in which case painkillers may be given home with her. The stitches are removed after 10 days.

There are few risks associated with this operation – as always, a risk of general anaesthetic, a small risk of bleeding during the operation, and a smaller risk of wound problems or hernia. Close monitoring of the patient ensures that these are very uncommon problems.



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