

# MINTLAW VET SURGERY

Dunshillock Mintlaw AB42 4JN



## NEUTERING MALE DOGS

Normally, your puppy will be 6-12 months old, fully grown and matured, before we would recommend he is castrated. However, if there is an entire female in the house, he may be done earlier.

In dogs, neutering means castration, ie removal of both testicles, not 'the snip'.

There are several benefits in having your dog castrated, which benefit his health and his socialising.

Neutered dogs are less likely to roam, meaning less time looking for him, and less risk that he is involved in an accident. They also tend to be less dominant – both to people and other dogs – and so have fewer problems with aggression. In general, a castrated male is more sociable.

From a health viewpoint, castration removes the risk of testicular cancer, and reduces the risk of prostate problems, or perineal hernias at a later stage. It can also be part of a regime to deal with behavioural problems, but only in conjunction with advice from a behaviourist.

The only potential drawback is that he may gain weight if there is not enough attention to his diet. Most neutered animals experience a drop in their metabolic rate, and so require less food, and monitoring of their weight. The surgery provides free weight checks after the surgery to help prevent this.

The dog comes into the surgery for the day, and has a small wound in front of the scrotum, where there will be stitches. These are removed after 10 days.

The risks are minimal – there is always a risk with any anaesthetic, there is a small risk of bleeding through the op, and there can be wound problems afterwards, particularly if he decides to 'help' with the wound care. These are carefully monitored to minimise any problems.

## CRYPTORCHID DOGS (1 OR 2 TESTICLES NOT IN THE SCROTUM)

Again, these dogs are allowed to mature to give the missing testicle(s) every chance to come into the scrotum naturally. Retained testicles have a higher tendency to develop tumours than those in the scrotum, and so castration is strongly advised to prevent this. These dogs should not be bred from. The dog comes in for the day, and depending on the whereabouts of the testicles, may have up to 3 incisions. One of these may have to go through the muscle of the abdomen, and these cases may require extra pain relief when going home. The risks associated with this operation are as for a 'normal' male.



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