

Aireworth Vets 
SMALL ANIMAL 

Why Castrate Your Dog



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If you have any further queries regarding the welfare of your pet, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff

We are happy to assist!

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What is a Dog Castrate?

Castration is the removal of the testicles and is not reversible.

What are the Advantages of Castration?

Dogs are castrated for many reasons -

- For many owners the fact he will not be able to father a litter of potentially unwanted puppies is the main reason for castration.
- Many entire dogs cause problems through being overly dominant in the family hierarchy. Being castrated usually lowers the dog's rank in the family pecking order.
- Some entire dogs have a tendency to wander and be a nuisance to neighbours, especially if there is a local bitch in heat. As an owner you are responsible for the actions of your dog.
- Many entire dogs can become a nuisance and embarrassment with excessive mounting behaviour to family members, visitors and furniture. Castration can reduce this problem to a minimum.

- Some entire dogs become very disturbed by local bitches in season and although they might not have the opportunity to wander, they can be a problem with howling at night and going off their food.
- Testicular cancer is far from rare in older dogs and we also recommend castration to prevent this serious disease.
- Prevention and treatment of male hormone linked diseases is another common reason for castration. Diseases helped or prevented by castration include, certain anal tumours, perineal hernia and prostatic enlargement.

What Problems could there be?

- Castration, although a routine procedure for veterinary surgeons, is a theatre operation, involving a general anaesthetic.
- There is a higher proportion of overweight castrated dogs compared to their entire counterparts. There is no doubt that a castrated dog requires less food for a given weight and activity level.

What Happens to my Dog?

In the morning your dog will be checked over by the vet to ensure that they are fit for their operation. All dogs undergoing surgery at Aireworth Vets are allocated their own kennel and are under constant supervision of the kennels nurse. When it is their turn for surgery they are taken to the preparation room. Here they are given an injection to sedate them. Once sedated a second injection is given into the vein which sends them to sleep. They are then intubated and given oxygen and a gaseous anaesthetic to keep them asleep. Once asleep they are clipped and prepared for surgery. They are then transferred to the operating theatre for their surgery. After their operation we transfer your pet back to the prep room to recover. Once they have regained consciousness we take them back to their kennel to recover fully. Both a vet and a nurse will care for your pet throughout the day.

When should my Dog be Castrated

We usually advise that dogs should be castrated from 6 months of age. Dogs can be neutered at a later age.