



## Why Castrate Your Rabbit

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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SMALL ANIMAL  

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# What is a Rabbit Castrate

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

The normal mature rabbit has two testicles situated in the scrotal sac for most of the time but can be retracted up into the body temporarily. If you can not see or feel his testicles then a vet or nurse should check him before booking him in for castration (maybe you have a female rabbit).

## What are the Advantages of Castration?

- The most obvious reasons for having your rabbit castrated is so that he cannot breed.
- Many people have their rabbits neutered as neutered rabbits are less aggressive and territorial and so they will be easier to handle and can be kept together with other male or female rabbits without fighting .
- Also if you want your rabbit to be a house rabbit he will be easier to litter train as he will not try and scent everywhere.
- The above reasons are the advantages of neutering but what about the risks?

What Problems Could there be?

Your rabbit will be given a general anaesthetic to carry out the operation. A general anaesthetic carries a higher risk in rabbits compared to cats and dogs as they are prey animals and respond to stress differently. If your rabbit is an outdoor rabbit arrangements will need to be made to house him indoors at least for the 1st night post operatively.

Although castrating is a routine procedure it is not risk free, bleeding during and after the operation is a factor and infection is always a risk.



## What Happens to my Rabbit?

In the morning your rabbit will be checked over by the vet to ensure that they are fit for their operation. All rabbits undergoing surgery at Aireworth Vets are allocated their own kennel and are under constant

supervision of the kennels nurse.

Whilst in the kennels they receive medication to aid in maintaining gut mobility and relieving pain. They also receive some fluid therapy to help maintain them during the surgery.

When it is their turn for surgery they are taken to the preparation room. Here they are given an injection which sends them to sleep. Once asleep they are clipped and prepared for surgery.

They are then transferred to the operating theatre for their surgery. During the surgery they are given oxygen through a mask to aid their breathing. After their operation we transfer your pet back to the prep room to recover.

Once they have regained consciousness we take them back to the kennels. It is important that once your rabbit has fully recovered they begin eating again. Normally we hospitalise any rabbit until he starts eating feely. This may require an overnight stay.

## When Should my Rabbit be Castrated?

We usually advise that rabbits should be castrated from 4 months of age to ensure they are fully grown. Rabbits can be neutered

at a later age.