



Sterilisation – the Facts

About sterilisation

The decision to sterilise our dog indicates not only responsibility for our dog but for our local community. The appropriate age to sterilise your puppy is around 6/7 months. If it's an older dog and healthy then there is no age limit. There are many taboos and beliefs when it comes to this subject. Let's try to clarify the matter.

What is sterilisation?

Sterilising is the general term used for the surgical removal of the reproductive organs in both male and female dogs. The operation is quite routine and is done under a general anaesthetic - it does not hurt the animal. The animal is normally able to return to its owner within 24 hours

- Castration is the removal of the testicles of the male dog.
- Spaying is the removal of the ovaries and uterus of the female dog.

Behaviour

Sterilisation improves the overall behaviour of your dog. It can encourage calmer and more predictable behaviour in dogs. Sterilised dogs are also less likely to mark territory and roam trying to find a mate.

Health

Sterilising improves the overall health of your dog whether it's male or female. It can remove health risks associated with pregnancy, some cancers and fatal infections.

Advantages of sterilisation

It is the best and most efficient weapon against unwanted puppies and strays.

In *females*:

- Female dogs usually come into season for about 3 weeks, twice a year. Around this time they can get pregnant. Whilst in season they may act strangely by trying to run away in search for a mate so will need to be kept away from male dogs. Sterilisation will stop this.
- It prevents phantom pregnancies or false gestation, which happens often with females.
- It eliminates the possibility of contracting cancer of the ovaries or the uterus

In *males*:

- It helps to reduce aggressiveness towards other males, especially when fighting for females. Male dogs' behaviour can 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, climbing fences – to find a mate. Sterilisation stops this.
- Sterilising can prevent behavioural issues such as scent marking and straying.
- It reduces anxiety and the habit to run away or to attack other animals.
- Sterilising reduces the risk of prostatic disease and certain cancers that can be costly to treat at a vet and in some cases fatal.

Are we not going against nature?

No! The natural right of the female to reproduce herself is inferior to the right of the puppy not to be killed, for example: by being thrown into the river when only a few days old, by being killed in a plastic bag or dumped in a rubbish bin or by the side of the road.

It is our duty, as caring humans, to prevent unwanted puppies and strays. We **MUST** sterilise our dogs.



Are we going to deprive the animal of its sex life?

No! Animals do not experience sexuality as human beings do. For an animal, sex is only the physical process of reproduction. As eating and drinking are the essentials for individual survival, sex is the essential for the survival of its species.

For man, sex has a purpose in itself, to the animal it is only the means to reproduce. The proof of this is that the female only accepts the male when she is on heat. That is, when her body has a hormonal necessity for it. Outside this period, she rejects the male aggressively, which means that to her, there is no pleasure related to sex. The male also only approaches the female when he receives the chemical information that she is on heat.

Will the animal put on weight after sterilisation or castration?

An animal that is fed too much food will put on weight, operated on or not. In both cases the food has to be adjusted to the animal. The animal also needs physical exercise regularly.

Will the animal's character change?

After sterilisation only hormone-dependant behaviour changes, like marking of territory. The character of the animal does not fundamentally change. Females stop going on heat. Dominant / aggressive males often become calmer and will not normally try to get at any unsterilised females in the area who do go on heat.

However, it is necessary to emphasise that sterilisation does not change anything in relation to territorial defence or aggressiveness caused by fear. In other words, the sterilisation does not leave the dog less or more fearful, nor does it intervene with its instinct to guard. The animal's character does not change.

Often it is the owner's character that changes, perhaps because they are less stressed because they don't have to worry about their dog getting into "trouble" anymore. The change is always positive.

Should a female have a puppy at least once in her lifetime?

No. This is a false idea. Reproduction is a hormonal and chemical process. Having puppies does not improve health. Once females have been sterilised, they won't be on heat anymore so reproduction stops. Neither will they have phantom pregnancies.

Does sterilisation benefit an unwanted puppy?

Studies prove that one female dog, during her reproductive cycle, can result in the birth of over 60,000 animals in 6 years' time. Half of them die early from some kind of disease or often cruelly die as a result of humans. Others are run over on the road or poisoned. Of those who survive, only a small portion have the luck to be adopted and animal shelters become overcrowded with unwanted dogs.

Will a sterilised dog be able to serve as a watchdog?

The character of the animal depends on its genetic inheritance, not on its sex hormones. However, if you only need a dog to guard your property, we suggest you install an electronic alarm system instead!

Be responsible & sterilise your pet dog.

Help end one of the biggest problems of our country.

Unwanted & abandoned puppies & dogs!

One sterilisation = less unwanted puppies & strays = less suffering & cruelty