

Desexing Male Pets

Desexing (castration) is the surgical procedure that renders a male cat or dog unable to reproduce.

Castration involves the removal of the testicles through a small incision through the scrotum (cat castrations) or in front of the scrotum (dog castrations). The testicles produce sperm and the hormone testosterone.

Desexing is best done at 5-6 months of age. At this age the reproductive organs are smaller than when the animal is older. This means surgery is easier and takes less time – your pet will be under anaesthesia for less time and therefore wakes up more quickly.

Desexing at this age also means that we can reduce the development of testosterone-induced behaviour problems such as mounting, masturbation, urine spraying, roaming and aggression towards other pets and people. If they become a problem later on when your pet has passed puberty and is sexually mature, they are often part of your pet's learned nature and may not be corrected at desexing at a mature age.

Benefits of desexing your male pet include:

- Less likely to wander looking for females and be hit by cars or get into fights
- Desexed male dogs are more likely to stay at home so often make better guard dogs *NB An entire male can smell an in-season female over 3km away and will travel this far to find her*
- Reduced tendency towards aggression with other pets and kids – entire males can be unpredictable towards the family when an in-season female is “within smell”
- Less likely to urinate inappropriately in your home and mount your furniture and party guests!
- No risk of testicular cancer developing – a high incidence in entire males
- Greatly reduces the likelihood of prostate problems later in life
- Greatly reduced incidence of cat fights, cat abscesses and feline AIDS virus (contracted from deep bites)
- Less visits to the vet from traumatic causes and therefore smaller vet bills!
- Cheaper council registration fees

We recommend castration for males as a very important way to improve the quality of life for your pet.

Castration is a routine procedure in our veterinary clinic but we are mindful that although we do this surgery every day, it is a once in a lifetime experience for your pet.

Castrations are performed under a full general anaesthetic using strict hygiene controls. Your pet's anaesthetic is monitored by a qualified vet nurse, your pet is then monitored throughout the afternoon before going home that same evening. Pain relief is given before and after the surgery. A complimentary check-up and suture removal is done 10 days after the surgery.



Northside Vet Care
Unit 6, 104 Gympie Road, Strathpine, QLD 4500
Ph: 3881 0077
www.northsidevetcare.com