



WHY SHOULD I NEUTER MY DOG?

One of the strongest arguments for **neutering** is to help control overpopulation. In today's world, the cost of veterinary services, coupled with a lack of caregiver time and effort, has caused the pet population to grow out of control. Shelters are filled to capacity, rescues are filling to capacity, and now animals are being dispersed on social media and local sale sites.

To maintain the health of the animal community, reduce individual household expense, reduce the burden on the shelter and rescue system, and reduce the number of wandering stray animals, **neutering** needs to regain footing as a minimum standard of care.

Not only from a population control stand point, **neutering** is known to reduce the incidence of prostatic disease in male canine patients. Some of these diseases include prostatic infections (prostatitis), benign prostatic hyperplasia, and prostatic cancer. Please see the [Prostatic Diseases](#) document for additional information.

In a 2013 study, it was found that **neutering** increases canine patient life-span by approximately 14% and they were less likely to die from infectious diseases, degenerative diseases, or trauma.

While there is some discussion of hip and knee disease in **neutered** patients, there are greater risk factors to these conditions like obesity, genetics, and activity levels.

WHAT BEHAVIORAL CHANGES CAN I EXPECT AFTER NEUTERING?

There is often debate on whether **neutering** can help with behavioral issues, such as fighting and territorial urine marking. While some undesirable behaviors are a learned behavior, fighting and marking are seen at a higher incidence when there is more testosterone circulating in the patient. As much as 50-60 percent of patients show a reduction in this behavior following **neutering**.

WHAT EXACTLY IS DONE SURGICALLY?

As a simple outpatient procedure, both testicles are removed surgically.

Canine patients have a small incision at the base of the penis to remove both testicles. Feline patients have a small incision placed over each testicle for removal.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT UPON DISCHARGE FROM THE HOSPITAL?

You will need to reduce the patient's activity for 7-10 days after **neutering**.

You will need to make sure the patient has an e-collar at all times to prevent licking and self-trauma of surgical site.

There should be little to no complications with the incision(s). If there is concern, have the patient rechecked.

In canine patients, the scrotum may become slightly swollen in the first few days after surgery, but if there is significant enlargement, redness, pain, or even bruising in the groin, please have the patient rechecked immediately.