



6251 O'Neil St., Niagara Falls, Ont., Phone:(905)354-5645, Fax: (905)354-9225

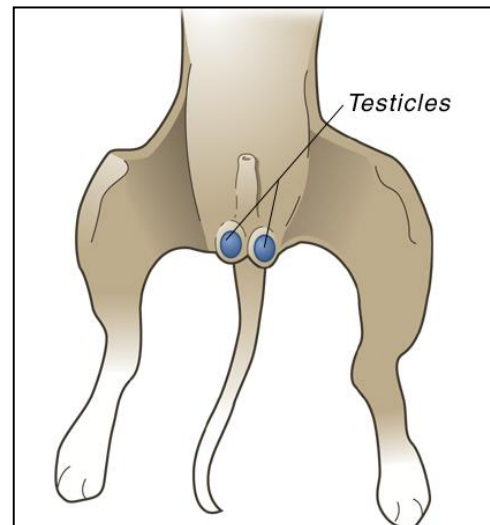
## **DOG CASTRATION**

### ***Why should I have my dog neutered?***

Neutering, or castration, should be considered if you are keeping any male dog as a pet. Remember that Guide Dogs for the Blind, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, and Dogs for the Disabled are routinely neutered.

### ***What are the advantages of neutering my male dog?***

- Reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis
- Reduces the risk of hormone-related diseases such as perianal adenoma (a common cancerous growth that occurs around the anus of non-castrated dogs)
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer
- Removal of sexual urge which results in less roaming behaviors. Also reduces marking behaviors around the house and elsewhere.
- Reduction of certain types of aggression



### ***Is neutering performed for any other reason?***

The operation may be performed to treat testicular tumors and some prostate gland conditions. It is also used to control hormonal (testosterone) dependent diseases such as anal adenomas.

Neutering may also be used in an attempt to treat certain forms of aggression.

### ***What are the disadvantages?***

Most of the perceived disadvantages are false. The most quoted of these are that the dog will become fat, characterless, and useless as a guard-dog. Obesity is probably the most commonly quoted disadvantage of neutering. Obesity is the result of overfeeding. By regulating your dog's diet and caloric intake, you can prevent obesity in neutered or intact males.

Neutering doesn't cause a change in personality, guarding instincts, intelligence, playfulness and affection.

### ***When should the operation be performed?***

Most veterinarians recommend neutering around six months of age.

***Is there any alternative to surgery?***

Not at the present time, although there are several exciting advances being made in this area.

***Are there any dangers associated with the operation?***

Neutering is considered a major operation and requires general anesthesia. With today's modern anesthetics and monitoring equipment, the risk of a complication is very low. It has been said that your pet has a greater chance of being injured in a car wreck than having an anesthetic or surgical complication.

***What happens when I leave my dog for this procedure?***

You will need to withhold food for twelve (12) hours prior to surgery. Your pet should have free access to water during the pre-operative fasting period. Please bring him in at 8:00AM the morning of the procedure.

Your pet will be examined and pre-anesthetic blood tests are highly recommended to be sure the kidney and liver is functioning normally. If any problems are noticed, the anesthetic protocol can be adjusted or the procedure may be put on hold for other tests to be performed.

If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized. Most pets will have an intravenous (IV) catheter placed to administer the anesthetic and to provide fluid therapy during the surgery. IV fluids are also highly recommended to make the procedure as safe as possible. Similar to humans having a surgery, IV fluids help to maintain normal blood pressure during the procedure and allow an IV access to give medications should emergency medications need to be given.

After your pet is anesthetized, a breathing tube will be placed in his trachea (windpipe). This will allow us to deliver oxygen and the gas anesthetic. The surgery consists of making a small incision in front of the scrotum and removing the testicles. Skin sutures are then placed to close the incision, which will need to be removed in 10 days. Your dog will then be hospitalized overnight for us to monitor his recovery from anesthesia and monitor the incision. He will then be free to go home the following afternoon (usually between 4 to 6 PM).

***Are there any post-operative precautions I should take?***

Rest and restriction of activity are the primary post-operative care you should provide. Most dogs can resume normal activity ten days after surgery. Please prevent any bathing, swimming, or running, and allow as much rest as possible until the sutures are out. If he licks the incision, or if the incision appears inflamed, please call us and we may need to place an Elizabethan Collar and/or prescribe some antibiotics.