



Arranging your pets appointment

To get your pet neutered you firstly need to ring the surgery to arrange a suitable day. You will be given a time to bring your pet to the surgery. Make the last meal no later than 9pm the evening before the operation. Their water needs to be removed on the morning of the operation. Remember not to feed your pet on the day of the operation.

Give cats access to a litter tray and take dogs for a walk before bringing them to surgery to allow them to go to the toilet. A nurse will admit your animal for their operation. This is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have.

Your pet will be housed in its own kennel with soft, comfy bedding, before being checked over by a Veterinary Surgeon and given a premedication injection. This is a combination of a mild sedative and pain relief. A nurse will monitor your pet throughout its operation and recovery. You will be contacted after the operation and a convenient collection time arranged. The nurse will discuss post operative care, including feeding, wound care and organise post operative checks and suture removal. This is normally three and ten days after the operation.



Cullompton:

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Telephone: (01884) 32228 (Large Animal)
Facsimile: (01884) 831941
E-mail: valecul@btconnect.com

Tiverton

The Laurels
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Telephone: (01884) 258585 (Small Animal)
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Honiton:

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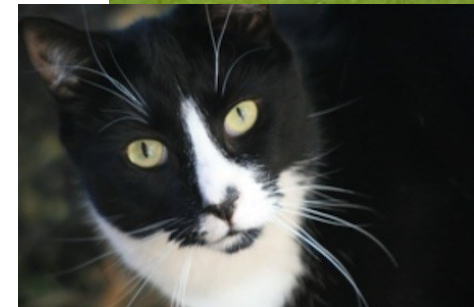
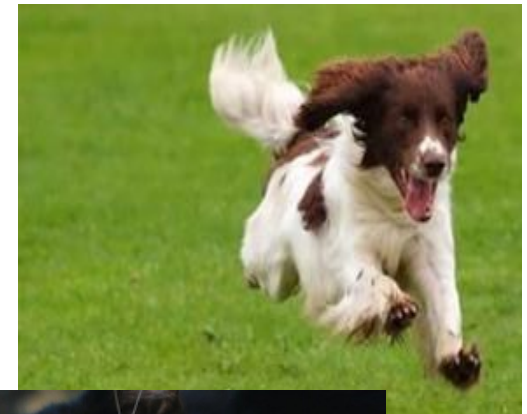
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Neutering your pet



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What is neutering

Neutering is a general term used to describe an operation that stops your pet from breeding. This involves the removal of the uterus and ovaries in females (also called spaying), and the testicles in males (also called castration). The operation is performed by a Veterinary Surgeon while the pet is under general anaesthesia.

Dogs

- **Females;** Bitches are spayed either before their first season or after their first season, which they normally have aged between six and twelve months. We recommend that you speak to a vet or nurse to decide when is the most appropriate time to spay your bitch. Bitches are usually in season every six months. If waiting until after the first season it is preferable to operate three months after she finishes her season.
- **Males;** Dogs can be castrated from six months old.

Cats

Females and males; Cats can be neutered from four months old.

Why neuter your pet?

Neutering can prevent many problems,

- Pyometra in bitches. This is a potentially fatal condition where pus accumulates within the uterus.
- Mammary tumours
- Testicular tumours
- Un-castrated or entire dogs can often get diseases of the prostate in later life or tumours of the anal tissue (anal adenomas)
- False pregnancy
- Pets wandering or straying
- Unwanted litters
- It may be helpful in some cases of dominance and aggression problems
- Urine spraying in tom cats

Risks associated with neutering;

- Occasionally incontinence can occur in some breeds of bitch
- In some breeds the coat can change texture

These risks can be discussed with your vet

Other useful information

- We recommend treatment for lungworm a week before any surgery. This is because lungworm can cause unexplained bleeding.
- Weight gain is very common after neutering due to the reduced amount of energy needed by your pet. A special diet or current diet reduced by 30% is recommended
- In some dogs one or both testicles fail to descend into the scrotum. This condition is referred to as retained testicles. It thought to be hereditary and it is therefore not advisable to breed from these dogs.
- Retained testicles can become cancerous, and often go un-noticed until the condition is well advanced and often involving other internal organs within the abdomen. We therefore recommend that all dogs that have retained testicles be castrated. Your vet or nurse can give you more information about this.