

Veterinarian puppy consult conversation aid



Castration is an important discussion to have today so you have time to think about your options. We want to help you determine the best option for you and your dog.

Castration is performed for several reasons:^{1,2}

- To prevent unwanted pregnancies
- To help reduce unwanted behaviours like humping, scent marking, roaming
- To reduce the risk of some health problems such as testicular cancer and prostatic hyperplasia

Consider discussing the following for large breed dogs and other at risk breeds: emerging evidence also suggests there may be long-term risks (including joint disorders and some cancers) associated with surgical castration in some breeds.

We offer two options for castrating male dogs. Let's talk more about both, so you can consider what is best for you and your dog.

Surgical castration

- Involves day surgery - where you bring your dog in the morning and usually pick him up in the afternoon
- This is a permanent method of castration that cannot be reversed
- As we remove both testicles, a general anaesthetic is required
- We'll do a blood test beforehand and send him home with aftercare instructions for his recovery from the anaesthetic and wound care

Medical castration³

- Medical castration is a reversible option (unlike surgical castration), the implant effects wear off and your dog's testosterone levels return to normal
- Involves inserting a small implant under the skin between your dog's shoulders (like a microchip)
- The procedure is performed during a routine consultation
- Like microchipping, it does not require your dog to have an anaesthetic (which means no anaesthetic-related worries)
- The implant takes up to six weeks to reach its full activity and provides the benefits of surgical castration, without the surgery
- To maintain the effect, the implant is replaced every 6 to 12 months. We'll do a health check at the same time
- When the implant is due to be replaced you will have the choice of repeating the implant, allowing the effects to wear off or electing permanent surgery

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Shaping the future
of animal health

