



Neutering Your Female Dog

Lanes Vets recommend neutering your female dog if you are not intending to breed from her.

Potential Advantages

Neutering bitches has many advantages, as well as preventing unwanted litters of pups, it removes the stress and mess of having a bitch in season and, depending at what age it is done, it can give protection against the development of mammary tumours and complete protection against tumours of the ovaries and uterus. Neutering will also prevent pyometra which is a life-threatening infection of the womb and is very common in older unneutered bitches.

Potential Disadvantages

There has been some debate in the past that early neutering can lead to the bitch being more likely to develop a hormone related incontinence, Sphincter Mechanism Incontinence (SMI). Over the last 5 years or so scientific evidence has shown that this is not the case and that neutering before a season makes little to no difference to the likelihood of developing SMI. If a bitch is going to develop this condition she will do so whether neutered or not. However we do believe that if a bitch is going to have this problem she will suffer from it earlier if neutered before her first season.

When can neutering take place?

Under most circumstances Lanes Vets recommend neutering your bitch before she has her first season, this can be as early as 4 months in some small breed dogs. The advantages of this are

- there is no mess and stress of a season, especially beneficial if you also have a male dog in the house,
- it gives almost 100% protection against mammary tumours in later life - even 1 season can affect the mammary tissue and trigger changes that may result in tumours later.
- It is a less traumatic operation because the ovaries and uterus are smaller and less developed, there is therefore less risk of bleeding during the operation.

We do NOT recommend early neutering in bitches that dribble urine when excited or frightened. These dogs may be more likely to have incontinence after neutering. Similarly if your dog has suspected cystitis, an underdeveloped vulva or a vulval discharge we would recommend to let her have a season before she is neutered to allow maturity in these areas. If your dog does have a season we recommend to wait 4 months after it before neutering, this allows all the hormone changes to settle before surgery.

What does the procedure involve?

Neutering of female dogs is also called spaying. The procedure is an ovariohysterectomy where both the ovaries and uterus are removed through an incision on the dog's tummy. Your dog will be admitted on the morning of the procedure having been starved for 12 hours before, she will be cared for in the kennels by our nurses and auxiliaries prior to, and following, the operation. Spaying is carried out under a full general anaesthetic and your dog will receive a drip and full pain relief with the procedure. She will be monitored constantly by a qualified Veterinary nurse during the procedure.

Following the operation your dog is not allowed to lick at the surgical site, contrary to popular belief this does not help healing and will in fact result in infection and pain for your dog. Lanes Vets provide a plastic collar to prevent interference with the wound or there is an option to purchase a pet t' shirt should you wish. Your dog will receive 2 free post-operative check-ups to ensure she is healing well.

If you would like to discuss neutering your bitch, Lanes Vets provide a free pre-operative examination and consultation where we can examine your dog and ensure she is ok to be spayed and talk to you about the operation.

For further information or to book an appointment please contact your local branch using the details below.

Lanes Vets Locations & Contact Information.

Lanes Vets Garstang Leachfield Industrial Estate, Green Lane West, Garstang, Lancashire PR3 1PR.	Telephone. 01995 603 349 Email: garstang@lanesvets.com
Lanes Vets Lancaster Units 4 - 5 Lake Enterprise Court , Ladies Walk, Caton Road, Lancaster LA1 3NX.	Telephone. 01524 67777 Email: lancaster@lanesvets.com
Lanes Vets Poulton 235 Garstang Road East, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 8JH.	Telephone. 01253 891 088 Email: poulton@lanesvets.com

The information contained within this factsheet and the Lanes Vets website is provided by qualified, practicing professionals in good faith. The information is not intended to replace the advice of your own veterinarian nor should persons use this information as a basis for diagnosis of any animal(s).