

Facts and Myths About Neutering

Myth: *My dog will be embarrassed if he's neutered!*

Fact: We tend to anthropomorphize our pets, which leads to these types of conclusions. Most of the time, we tend to think that we would be embarrassed if this were done to us. This may be the case, but most assuredly, your dog will not care.

Myth: *I heard neutering makes them less active, but I want an active dog!*

Fact: Studies have shown that neutering greatly decreases the development of aggressive behaviors in dogs. Neutering dogs does tend to "slow them down," but not to the extent that they lose their enthusiasm for walks, hunting, or hiking. Rest be assured, your dog will still be able to do all the things you enjoy doing with him.

Your dog's surgery appointment is scheduled for:

Please have him here by 8 AM on that date. He can have as much water as he wants, but no food after 8 PM the night before.

Because the procedure does not involve abdominal surgery, he will be able to go home the afternoon of the procedure, after 3:45 PM.

Two Harbors Veterinary Clinic Cost and Policies for Neutering

Dog Neuter

less than 12 mos.	\$167.08
older than 12 mos., under 90 lbs.	\$178.64
90 lbs. or greater	\$198.21

All expenses are expected to be paid in full at the time of discharge.

Explanation of Costs

Our charges include a discount ranging somewhere between \$75 to \$100. This is taken off the cost of our surgical charges as our donation to helping prevent the pet overpopulation problem. Normal surgical time charges are around \$3 per minute; nearly 100% of these charges are discounted.

Our clinic makes mandatory an intravenous catheter and delivery of IV fluids during gas anesthesia. We believe this should be required for all animals, because it significantly decreases the risk of problems with anesthesia as well as gives us a route to deliver emergency medications should problems develop.

We also mandate aggressive pain control on our neuters. Each dog receives a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) injection pre-operatively that will help it be more comfortable in the 24 hours after surgery. We also give a morphine injection to keep the dog comfortable when it awakens. All of our neuters go home with several days of post-operative oral NSAID pain control as well.

We invite you to compare our charges to other clinics, but when you do so, make sure to ask if they provide the same level of anesthetic management and post-operative care. We feel that we do the most we can to keep your dog safe and comfortable.

Two Harbors
Veterinary Clinic



Neutering Your Dog



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There is a fair amount of confusion about the merits and drawbacks to neutering a male dog. However, it will be one of the most important decisions you'll ever make for your pet. Because of this, we at Two Harbors Veterinary Clinic hope you'll take this information into account.

SHOULD MY DOG BE NEUTERED?

The only time your dog should not be neutered is if you absolutely know you are going to breed him. Millions of animals are euthanized year after year simply because there is no home for them. They sit for months in shelters hoping for a chance at life, and unfortunately there aren't enough people like you out there that are willing to take them home. Also, an un-neutered male dog can breed several females in a short amount of time, which can exponentially worsen the overpopulation problem.

Breeding a male dog responsibly involves an investment, and should revolve around two questions:

- 1 Is my dog of strong enough genetics that it warrants passing his genes on to offspring to better his breed?
- 2 Is my dog of appropriate temperament to breed?

If the answer to either of these questions is "no" then you should have your male dog neutered, plain and simple.

Many owners of male dogs who hesitate to have them neutered do so for concern over the dog's psyche. In fact, it is very common to identify with our pets, and thus we choose not to have him neutered because, "we wouldn't want it done to us."

As we know from the types of things dogs like to roll in, they are less than worried about their appearance. Rest assured, your dog does not care about his post-surgical appearance.

There is no downside to neutering a dog. Consider the following benefits to sterilization:

- **Behavior Modification:** Male dogs that have been neutered will be less likely to mark with urination. More importantly, the elimination of testosterone from their system will often calm them down and make them less aggressive, especially towards other animals. A recent study showed a significant decrease in separation anxiety in dogs neutered before puberty. Also, an intact male dog has a tendency to wander. This leads to an increased risk for things like being hit by a car.
- **Health Reasons:** As in females, neutering a male dog will reduce the risk of some very serious diseases. Obviously, neutering a male completely eliminates the risk of testicular cancer. It also reduces the occurrence of prostate disease, specifically eliminating susceptibility to prostate infection. Intact male dogs can also develop a kind of benign tumor around the rectum which will ulcerate, causing severe discomfort and pain. Neutering eliminates the hormonal cause of these tumors.

If you still have any doubt as to whether or not your dog should be neutered, you need to ask yourself one question: is there a reason it should not be sterilized? Unless you plan to breed your dog, there is simply no good reason to keep it intact.

WHEN SHOULD MY DOG BE

STERILIZED?

Your dog should be neutered or spayed between four and six months of age. We often recommend scheduling the procedure one week after the last set of puppy shots are given. The earlier he is neutered, the faster male dogs recover from the surgery, and fewer post-operative complications are seen.

It is important to note that any dog at any age can be sterilized. There is no "window of opportunity" that can be missed. It is often slightly more expensive to sterilize an older dog because the surgery is more labor-intensive. However, the benefits far outweigh the price.

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