



Why should I get my pet desexed?

Desexing your pet will help stop roaming, reduce the risk of cancer and diseases related to the reproductive organs, reduce urine marking, avoid having an unplanned litter and they cost less to feed.

Common misconceptions about desexing:

1. “My dog will get fat as a result of the operation”. This is a MYTH! The animal’s metabolism will decrease after desexing. You will just need to reduce the food intake if your pet was desexed once they reach 12 months of age. Animals will only get fat if we feed them too much.
2. “My pet will be friendlier after a litter”. This is false. By the time an animal is old enough to breed (ie; over 2yrs of age) their personality is formed and is unlikely to be altered by a litter. In fact, pets are often nicer as they don’t experience personality changes due to the influence of hormones.
3. “It has no long term benefit to my dog”. Wrong again! - In the long term, desexing will reduce the risk of serious illness in your pet. Desexing a male **prevents** testicular cancer, and reduces the risk of prostate cysts, infection and benign enlargement. Desexing a female it **prevents** pyometra which is a serious life-threatening infection of the uterus. If you have your female dog desexed before her first heat, the risk of mammary cancer is dramatically reduced.
4. “Working dog performance will be adversely affected by neutering”. Neutered dogs are not lasier than entire dogs.
5. “My dog will lose his guarding instinct”. This is a myth – although neutering reduces aggression, a dog guards a property due to loyalty to their owner and family, not because they are aggressive animals.
6. “My dog can’t fall pregnant because it’s enclosed in a property with high fences” – dogs can jump over 6ft fences when they are determined too and don’t forget, a lot of dogs are great diggers and will just go under the fence! It’s amazing how far a dog will travel to find a female on heat.
7. “My cat’s too young to get pregnant”. Owners can easily be caught out by their cat coming into heat young. Some female kittens come into season as young

as 4 months of age, especially if they are housed with or near an entire male cat. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Forgotten truths about desexing:

Neutering is safer for your pet than long term contraceptives – contraceptives are unreliable and can have serious side effects. Repeat pregnancies for a female animal are unhealthy and increase the risk of complications and malnutrition.

Desexing animals reduces the drive to wander and fight. Reduced wandering will reduce the number of pets hit by cars. Reduced fighting reduces the risk of abscess and painful injuries. It also decreases the risk of your cat contracting feline aids as it is transmitted via bites. Desexing also reduces the drive to mark their territory by urinating everywhere.

There is a risk of female dogs becoming incontinent later in life. This is easily treated by medication. Compared to life-threatening illnesses such as pyometra or mammary cancer, we **strongly recommend desexing all pets.**

If you would like to discuss the answers to these or any other questions about spaying or castrating your pet, please talk to your vet.

What does desexing involve?

Neutering a female animal – also called spaying – involves a full ovariectomy, with removal of the ovaries and uterus under general anaesthesia. This prevents the animal coming ‘on heat’ again.

Neutering a male animal – also called castration – involves removal of the testicles. Some pet owners see this as denying the pet his natural instincts, but animal psychologists argue the opposite – that leaving an entire pet unable to fulfil his urges may cause many behavioural problems.

If you are not planning to breed from your pet, when they reach 5-6months old this is an ideal age to get them desexed.

