

Neutering

Should I have my dog neutered?

Neutering removes the sexual urge from both dogs and bitches. It can be carried out surgically when it is irreversible. Temporary or semi-permanent control can be effected by the use of certain drugs.

What are the advantages and disadvantages?

If you do not intend to breed from your dog it has undoubted advantages both in the male and the female. In the male dog is removes the sexual urge so that if the dog gets the scent of a bitch in oestrus he is unlikely to show any interest which in certain breeds can be an undoubted advantage. Neutering the bitch prevents oestrus as well as breeding. She will not come into heat and therefore will not have to be confined and deprived of her usual exercise and companionship which otherwise will occur usually twice a year when she is in heat (oestrus) for at least 3 weeks each time.

Females neutered before their first season have only a 0.5% chance of developing mammary cancer. Those neutered between their first and second seasons have an 8% chance and between their 2nd and 3rd seasons a 26% chance. This shows that earlt neutering is by far the best option.

Owners are often tempted to have at least one litter from a bitch. There appears to be a general misconception that having a litter will improve temperament. There is no scientific evidence to support this theory whereas it has been proven that neutering in the bitch not only obviously prevents subsequent and not uncommon diseases of the uterus but also reduces the possibility of breast cancer.

Once neutered the bitch will have no oestrus and will not have unwanted puppies or phantom pregnancies which in some bitches causes as lot of distress.