

Ask The Vet?

by Dan Flynn MVB Cert CSM MRCVS

Welcome to this regular series of articles by local Veterinarian Dan Flynn from Common's Brae Vets. He will answer your questions about problem pet issues over the coming issues of BT8.

Should you neuter your dog or not?

Neutering is a routine surgical procedure that I recommend for Dogs and Bitches that are not intended for breeding purposes. In females it involves the surgical removal of the ovaries, uterus (womb) and part of the cervix, technically known as an ovariohysterectomy. In males it involves the surgical removal of both testicles.

My recommendation is based on the health benefits for the animals in later life. Here are some of the advantages and disadvantages

Male Dogs

- Prevents Testicular cancer
- Reduces the risk of prostatic disease, and anal adenomas
- Reduces sexual behaviour which can be inconvenient and embarrassing
- Can make them less likely to roam
- It will usually make them less aggressive and more friendly towards people and other dogs, however this effect is variable and some behavioural counselling may also be required especially in older dogs with established behaviour patterns.

Female Dogs

- Will prevent bitches coming into season.
- Almost 30% of unsprayed bitches can develop mammary cancer in later life. This is reduced to 0.25 % if neutered before their 1st season which usually takes place between 6-12 months of age
- Prevention of pyometra, which is a womb infection and can lead to an emergency ovariohysterectomy
- Prevents unwanted puppies

Disadvantages

- Neutering involves a general anaesthetic.
- Some animals have a greater tendency to gain weight, I encourage regular weight checks and good dietary and exercise advise.

Some Myths about the subject:

There is no advantage to the bitch in being allowed to have a season or a litter. I would only encourage breeding a bitch only if puppies are desirable

I there are any issues that you would like discussed in this column please left me know at

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