



DOG CASTRATION



What is Castration?

Castration is the term applied to the procedure of removing the male sex glands - the testicles. The operation is performed under general anaesthesia, and involves the removal of the testicles so that semen and the male hormone, testosterone, can no longer be produced. The testicles are removed through an incision in the scrotum. Recovery is rapid in most cases.

Why Castrate?

Castration can be performed at any age but is most commonly carried out at around six months of age. Sometimes an older dog has to be castrated as part of the treatment for a particular disease, eg, prostate problems. The castrated dog is unable to father more puppies and tends to lose his desirable male characteristics such as roaming, aggression towards other dogs and mounting. He retains his normal territorial guarding behaviour but overall he becomes a better family pet. In some dogs, there may be failure of one or both of the testicles to descend into the scrotum as normal. Such dogs are referred to as cryptorchids. It is essential to remove such testicles from wherever they are lodged eg in the abdomen or groin as they are much more likely to become cancerous. Most importantly, castration will help to control the dog population. There are too many unwanted pets already.

Before Surgery

The dog should not be offered any food or water after 8pm on the night before surgery. Any food or fluid given after this time will increase the danger of vomiting under anaesthetic. He should be brought to the clinic between 8 and 9am on the day of surgery, or with prior arrangement he may be presented the night before.

After Surgery

Your pet should be ready to go home on the same day as surgery.

Give him only a small amount of food on the night after surgery. Don't worry if food is not eaten - his appetite should return the next day. Also give a small amount of water or milk to drink. Give him somewhere quiet, warm and comfortable to sleep for his first night home. It will take about 36 hours for the effects of the anaesthetic to wear off. During this time he will be quieter than usual.

Sutures (stitches) are normally ready to be removed within 7-10 days after the surgery.

Contact the **Northland Vet Group** if you feel there is a problem after the surgery.