

NEUTERING



SEADOWN
VETERINARY SERVICES



Dogs

In bitches, spaying may be carried out for a number of reasons. It prevents pregnancy, and therefore potentially unwanted litters of puppies. It also significantly reduces the chance of mammary cancer if your dog is neutered at a young age. Spaying prevents a serious condition called pyometra, when the womb becomes infected, often later in life.

Bitches are usually spayed 2-3 months after their first season. In some situations we may operate before a bitch has a season. Older bitches are usually spayed mid way between seasons.

In male dogs, castration will mean your dog cannot father a litter of puppies. It can also reduce sexually motivated behaviour such as mounting other dogs. Castration significantly reduces the incidence of prostate disease and eliminates the risk of testicular cancer. Dogs can be castrated from six months of age but this may vary with individual circumstances.

Dog neutering is carried out under general anaesthesia at our Hythe hospital. Normally your pet will be admitted in the morning for surgery and will be discharged in the afternoon/evening. Your dog will come home with a buster collar and may have skin stitches. A post-operative check should be booked for 2-3 days following surgery, and stitches are removed 10-14 days post-operatively.

Cats

Cats become sexually active from 5-6 months of age and young outdoor female cats will easily fall pregnant if they are not neutered. We advise spaying of female cats from 4.5 months and over 2 kg in weight. Spaying of female cats prevents unwanted pregnancy and therefore potentially unwanted litters of kittens. It also prevents the build up of infection in the womb, which is called a pyometra. If your cat has an unplanned litter, it is wise to have her spayed promptly afterwards, otherwise she may get pregnant again. It is also advisable to castrate male cats at 4.5 months and over 2 kg in weight. Entire cats are more likely to stray or go missing, fight with others and are consequentially at increased risk of some infectious diseases.

Cat neutering is carried out under general anaesthesia at our Lymington practice on a Tuesday & Thursday. Normally your pet will be admitted in the morning for surgery and will be discharged in the afternoon/evening. Female cats usually come home with a buster collar and may have skin stitches. They should be checked two days post-operatively, and any stitches are removed after 10-14 days. Male cats do not usually require skin stitches or any follow up examinations.

Rabbits

Rabbits breed very easily, and if kept in mixed-sex groups will replicate rapidly! Female rabbits can be neutered from 5 months of age. This not only prevents pregnancy, but eliminates the risk of uterine tumours, which is a common problem in older rabbits. Some female rabbits also become unhappy or aggressive around their seasons, and neutering can improve this behaviour.

Male rabbits can be neutered from three months of age, providing their testicles present (descended). Neutering of male rabbits prevents breeding and can reduce sexually motivated behaviour, such as humping and aggression towards others.

Rabbit neutering is carried out under general anaesthesia at our Hythe hospital. Normally your pet will be admitted in the morning for surgery. Your rabbit may go home the same day, or stay for one night afterwards, as anaesthetic recoveries in rabbits tend to be slower. Your rabbit may have skin stitches, but these are often dissolvable. They should be checked the day following surgery and usually again in 10-14 days.

Delivering first-class veterinary care to the New Forest since 1923