

Dog Frequently Asked Questions

How old does my dog need to be in order to be spayed or neutered?

Your pet must be four months old (or four pounds) to be altered.

Will my animal become fat and lazy after being altered?

Your animal will not get fat and lazy after being spayed or neutered unless you feed him/her too much. To keep your pet healthy they should get regular exercise.

Will my animal's behavior change after being altered?

Your animal's behavior will not change except that male dogs will be less likely to fight, roam and spayed females will no longer go into heat.

Will my dog feel pain during surgery?

Your dog will be under anesthesia during surgery, and will feel no pain. You should keep the animal quiet after surgery while she or he heals. Dogs should be kept indoors and walked on a leash.

How young can a female dog get pregnant?

Dogs as young as five months can become pregnant. For many reasons, it is important to spay or neuter BEFORE the first litter is born - before six months.

How long after my female dog has had puppies can I get her spayed?

Mother dogs can become pregnant while nursing. It is important to keep a nursing mother away from other adult dogs of the opposite sex. One can spay a mother as soon as the pups are weaned - (4 to 5 weeks) and because of the risk of pregnancy this should be done.

What is Bordetella shot? Do I need it?

In the simplest of terms, the bordetella vaccination is the canine equivalent of the human flu shot. It helps protect your dog from contracting canine cough. Your dog is more likely to come into contact with the virus in areas that frequently have large numbers of dogs like a dog park, a boarding facility, a shelter, or even the veterinarian's office.

Will my dog still be protective?

It is a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

Is it better to have one litter before spaying a female dog?

Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier.

How often do dogs need shots?

It is recommended that dogs receive an annual booster for their vaccinations. It is required by law that all dogs are protected against rabies at all times. There is a three year rabies shot available, but a dog must first receive the one year rabies vaccination.

Are the vaccines safe?

There can be some side effects--joint or muscle soreness, lethargy, or a mild fever can linger for a day or two. These reactions aren't serious, and your dog can eat, drink, and exercise normally after a vaccination.

How many shots do puppies need?

A minimum of two vaccinations should be given three to four weeks apart. An additional vaccination against rabies is also necessary and can be given at 6 months of age.

When can puppies/dogs be wormed?

Most worming can be started anywhere around the 2-4 weeks. Puppies need to be weighed before being wormed in order to make sure proper dosage is being given for their weight. Whatever product is used, deworming needs to be repeated two weeks after the initial treatment. The first treatment kills any adult worms. The second treatment kills any new worms that may have hatched after the initial treatment.

Adult dogs should be wormed every year or if they show signs of infection.

Can I buy heartworm medicine?

Yes, but must be a patient with a current heartworm test on file. Under no circumstances will we sell heartworm products without having a heartworm test done in our clinic.

How often does a female dog come in heat?

A female dog goes into heat 2 times a year

What are the risks?

Like any surgical procedure, sterilization is associated with some anesthetic and surgical risk, but the overall incidence of complications is very low.

What are the benefits?

- Benefits of Spaying (females):
 - No heat cycles, therefore males will not be attracted
 - Less desire to roam
 - Risk of mammary gland tumors, ovarian and/or uterine cancer is reduced or eliminated, especially if done before the first heat cycle
 - Reduces number of unwanted cats/kittens/dogs/puppies
 - Helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives

- Benefits of Neutering (males):
 - Reduces or eliminates risk of spraying and marking
 - Less desire to roam, therefore less likely to be injured in fights or auto accidents
 - Risk of testicular cancer is eliminated, and decreases incidence of prostate disease
 - Reduces number of unwanted cats/kittens/dogs/puppies
 - Decreases aggressive behavior, including dog bites
 - Helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives