

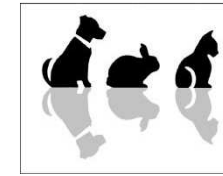
5) My children should witness our pet giving birth.

Pets often have their litters in the middle of the night or in a place of their own choosing. Because pets need privacy when giving birth, and unnecessary intrusion can cause the mother to become seriously upset. These intrusions can result in an unwillingness to care for the offspring or in injury to the owners or to the pet itself.

6) I am concerned about my pet undergoing anaesthesia.

Placing a pet under anaesthesia is a very common concern of owners. Although there is always a slight risk involved, the anaesthetics currently used by veterinary surgeons are very safe. Our operating theatres are also equipped with electronic monitors to measure heart rate, pulse and blood pressure during surgery to ensure that our patients are doing well under anaesthesia. Many of the conditions encountered in older unneutered animals require surgery to correct. In this case the risks in an older, potentially ill animal are increased. Thus, the medical benefits of having your pet neutered far outweigh the slight risk involved with undergoing anaesthesia. Please consult one of our veterinary surgeons if you are concerned about this aspect of the procedure.

- Rainsbrook Veterinary Group carries out an average of ten neutering operations each day. This is more than most veterinary practices because we have taken the initiative to promote neutering, and we provide veterinary services for a number of charity organisations.
- We carry out routine surgery such as this Monday to Friday every week. You will need to drop your pet off between 8.30am and 9.30am at the surgery (Hillmorton surgery in Rugby).
- Preparations prior to the anaesthetic will be explained when you book your pet in for surgery.
- Most pets will have stitches that will need to be removed in a consult 10 days after the operation. This can be performed by either one of the veterinary surgeons or nurses. Make sure you book an appointment.



**RAINSBROOK
VETERINARY
GROUP**

Neutering your
pet



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The term neutering applies to both male and female animals. Male animals are castrated, and female animals are spayed.

Some good reasons for having your pet neutered:

1) No family wants to cope with an unwanted pregnancy.

Spaying prevents your pet from giving birth to unwanted offspring. This is the single most important reason for neutering your pet, be it a dog, cat, rabbit or whatever. Every year welfare societies rehome thousands of unwanted animals and sadly, many more are put to sleep as they cannot be found new homes. Those centres that do not put animals to sleep often have to turn animals away as they are full. Although behavioural problems are the main reasons animals are given to shelters, many are orphans due to accidental breeding by free-roaming, un-neutered pets. The more pets spayed or neutered, the fewer dogs, cats, rabbits etc will have to be destroyed.

2) Spaying or neutering increase your pet's chances for a longer, healthier life.

Spaying your pet before her first oestrus cycle (before she reaches sexual maturity) greatly reduces her chances of developing breast cancer and eliminates the threat of uterine and ovarian cancer and uterine infection, which are common occurrences in un-neutered females. Neutering your male pet prevents testicular tumours and may prevent prostate problems. Neutering also decreases the possibility of perianal tumours and hernias, which are commonly observed in older, un-neutered dogs.

Because neutered cats are less likely to roam, the threat of abscesses and other contagious disease caused or spread by bites and fighting are greatly reduced. Some of these disease such as Feline Leukaemia (FeLV) and Feline 'AIDS' (FIV) are incurable and fatal.

3) A neutered pet is better for your family.

Males neutered early in life are less aggressive towards other males and are not distracted by females in heat. Often they are less aggressive to people and dogs in general are easier to train. However neutering is not a substitutes for good obedience training. A neutered male will be less tempted to stray, possibly crossing dangerous roads searching for a mate. Neutered males also are less likely to mark you (or your neighbour's) expensive shrubs with his urine as well as the furniture and carpets inside the house!

Spaying your female pet eliminates the problem of stray males gathering on your doorstep and decreases her desire to roam and breed.

4) Spaying results in a cleaner female dog and home.

Because female dogs pass bloody fluid for about 10 days, twice a year, as part of their heat, constant care must be taken to avoid stains in homes with un-neutered bitches.

Some popular misconceptions :

1) My pet will get fat and lazy.

Neutering may reduce your pet's overall activity level and natural tendency to wander. It will also change hormonal balances. Which may influence appetite. Pets that become fat and lazy after being neutered usually are overfed and do not get enough exercise.

2) We want another pet just like Rover and Fluffy.

Breeding 2 purebred animals rarely results in offspring that are exactly like one of the parents. With mixed breeds. It is virtually impossible to have offspring that are exactly like one of the parents.

3) My pet's personality will change.

Any change will be for the better. After being neutered, your pet will be less aggressive toward other dogs or cats, have better personality, and will be less likely to wander. Spraying (urine marking), which dogs and cats often do to mark their territory, diminishes or ceases after pets are altered.

4) We can sell puppies and kittens and make money.

Even well known breeders are fortunate if they break even on raising purebred litters. The cost of raising such a litter (which includes stud fees, vaccinations and other health care costs, and feeding a quality food) consumes most of the 'profit'. Well known breeders raise breeds that they like. These breeders also try to improve the standard of the breeds they raise.