



# Neutering Guide








## Our policy on intact male dogs

We do have a policy where we can't accept dogs who are still intact over 18 months old and most other doggy daycares and some boarding establishments have similar requirements.

This is because we exercise dogs in a large social group and the unwanted behaviours of unneutered males can make things problematic for other dogs within the group. We have found that even if the intact male does not show any unwanted behaviours, the way that others may react towards them still causes disorder and takes away from every dog having the chance to have a fun and enjoyable play session. You may not see any unwanted behaviour from your dog in a calmer setting at home or on a walk, however when introduced to a busier setting with an abundance of dogs, the excitement levels increase dramatically and the atmosphere can cause these sorts of behaviours to be brought out.

If a dog is neutered early enough, around 8-12 months, depending on how each individual dog is, they hopefully do not learn the unwanted behaviours associated with being whole and testosterone driven, therefore they settle into a calmer happier life without these bad habits continuing.

## Benefits of neutering your dog

-  Reduce spraying/markings
-  Reduce aggression
-  Reduce dominant behaviour
-  Lower risk of cancers (and eliminates the chances of developing testicular cancer)
-  Decreases the chances of developing prostatic disease and hernias
-  Decrease overpopulation
-  Increased lifespan up to 3-5 years

Unwanted behaviours that we see	Reasons we can't accept this
Territory marking on other dogs, people and marking outside other dog's rooms	Urine from intact males is notoriously smelly and sticky, dogs need bathing following this and rooms need deeper cleans to remove the smell
Humping of other dogs, both male and female	This can cause back injuries, scratched bellies and legs and it may force the other dog to be defensive potentially creating an aggressive reaction or to feel they need to exclude themselves from play to avoid the dog
Aggression	Intact dogs may be overconfident and this can turn them into bullies
Dominant behaviour	Intact males will try and dominate other intact males and we don't want other young dogs/puppies to have a bad experience because of this. Humping is one form of this or stealing or guarding toys and balls.

## Speaking to your vet

Always remember that it is completely your decision on whether to neuter or not, considering the reasons for and general home life with your dog. We have found that some vets can be wary about agreeing to neuter your dog when you ask them to and they often base their assessment off spending only a couple of minutes 1:1 with your dog in an environment most dogs aren't keen on and where there are no other dogs around for them to observe any interactions. If you are having difficulty with unwanted behaviours and feel it would be more beneficial for your dog and yourself to have them neutered, seek further advice and do not be deterred. Many doors will be closed to intact male dogs because of their behaviour, remember that vets do not see them in a daycare setting or experience these behaviours firsthand or see the problems created from neutering too late.

## Our experience

From our experience of mixing and socialising thousands of dogs in group situations over many years, we do not see any behavioural or health problems associated with neutering a dog. Issues such as a dog putting on weight afterwards can be attributed to many other factors. Aggression only being triggered after neutering is also very dependent on the dog but leaving a nervous dog intact, will increase aggressive traits massively. Allowing a dog to grow and not neutering too early is important but there is still enough testosterone, at a lower level, left in a neutered dog to allow them to continue healthy growth.

And from our own personal experience of owning big breed dogs, our Rottweiler was neutered at 6 months old due to issues with dominant and difficult behaviour and now at 8 years old, he is the most happy and balanced boy and has grown to the perfect size and weight for his breed.