

THE TRUTH ABOUT SPAY NEUTER

CANINE CONNECTION WITH HEART

When you get a new puppy many of the decisions you make over the next few months will affect your dog for a lifetime: the diet you choose, the vaccine protocol, socialization and training, and decisions about when to sterilize.

Questions about spay neutering come up often. Most people are familiar with just one type of sterilization for dogs: spaying or neutering. But these are actually desexing procedures that go well beyond simply sterilizing a dog so that he or she can no longer reproduce. These are procedures that you may want to consider.

Desexing removes hormone-producing organs (the ovaries or testicles) that researchers are now finding are actually quite important to overall health. Studies also indicate that the earlier a puppy is spayed or neutered, the greater the likelihood of health problems later in life. Here are examples of studies evidencing some of these potential issues.

Back in the 1990s, studies showed that dogs spayed or neutered before one year of age grew significantly taller than dogs not spayed/neutered until after puberty. And the earlier the spay/neuter procedure, the taller the dog. The hormone estrogen, which is no longer produced in spayed or neutered dogs, plays a crucial role in bone growth and development. The removal of estrogen-producing organs in immature dogs can cause growth plates to remain open. The dogs continue to grow and wind up with abnormal growth patterns and bone structure, which can result in irregular body proportions.

Additional Health issues from early spay neuter

Hip Dysplasia

Research data results showed that both male and female dogs desexed at an early age were more prone to hip dysplasia.

Cranial Cruciate Ligament (CCL) Injuries

Early spayed and neutered dogs had a significantly higher incidence of canine cranial cruciate ligament CCL rupture than their intact counterparts. And while large breed dogs had more CCL injuries, sterilized dogs of all breeds and sizes had increased rupture rates.

Bone Cancer

A study established that the risk for bone sarcoma was significantly influenced by the age at which the dogs were desexed. For both male and female dogs spayed or neutered before one year of age, there was a one-in-four lifetime risk of bone cancer, and the desexed animals were significantly more likely to develop the disease than intact dogs. A 1998 study published in the Veterinary Journal concluded that the risk for bone cancer in large breed, purebred dogs increased twofold for spayed or neutered dogs.

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Other Health Concerns

Early gonad removal is commonly associated with urinary incontinence in female dogs and has been linked to increased incidence of urethral sphincter incontinence in males. A study of shelter dogs concluded that infectious diseases were more common in dogs that were desexed at less than 24 weeks of age.

Studies also find increased incidence of:

Adverse reactions to vaccines

Noise phobias

Fearful behavior

Aggression

Undesirable sexual behaviors

The effect of spaying on **canine breast cancer**: it's just a theory, not a fact. A UK study published in 2012 were unable to validate the theory – a theory that is widely assumed to be a fact – that early spaying protects female dogs from mammary neoplasia. Translation: The idea that spaying, and early spaying of a female dog before her first estrus cycle, removes or reduces her risk of breast cancer is at the present time a theory rather than a fact.

I am all in favor of controlling the dog population but early spay neuter has the potential for some significant issue for the health and wellbeing of the dog. Several shelters that I had previously pull dogs from have adopted a policy of every dog /puppy regardless of age to be spay/neutered before adoption. Therefore even 8 week old puppies will be fixed before leaving the shelter. I do not support such a poorly thought-out policy and will not adopt out to anyone a dog that has a high risk of some serious health issues as they mature.

I'd suggest you do some research of your own and consult with a veterinarian who is up to date on the most recent studies allowing you to arrive at the best decision for the welfare of your dog.



Look deep into the heart of a dog and you will find your own.

References that may be of interest.

How Dogs Love Us.	The Genius of Dogs	Chaser	Dog Sense	Dog is Love
Gregory Berns	Brian Hare Vanessa Woods	John W. Pilley	John Bradshaw	Clive D. L. Wynne

Resources and Information

My new business is called

Canine Connection with Heart

www.canineconnectionwithheart.com

