

Desexing

Desexing removes the sexual urge from both dogs and bitches. Temporary or semi- permanent control can be effected by the use of certain drugs, however surgical desexing is permanent.

What are the advantages and disadvantages?

If you do not intend to breed from your dog surgical desexing has undoubted advantages both in the male and female.

In the male dog it removes the sexual urge so that if the dog gets the scent of a bitch in oestrus he is unlikely to show any interest, which in certain breeds can be an undoubted advantage. Desexing the bitch prevents oestrus as well as breeding. She will not come into heat and therefore will not have to be confined and deprived of her usual exercise and companionship which otherwise will occur usually twice a year when she is in heat (oestrus) for at least 3 weeks at a time.

Owners are often tempted to have at least one litter from a bitch. There appears to be a general misconception that having a litter will improve temperament. There is no scientific evidence to support this theory whereas it has been proven that neutering in the bitch not only obviously prevents subsequent and not uncommon diseases of the uterus but also reduces the possibility of breast cancer.



Disadvantages

It is a common fallacy that a desexed dog will become fat and lazy.

Remember that all service animals, Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs, and Dogs for the disabled are routinely desexed. Judicious feeding of a scientifically prepared complete diet without excessive titbits should adequately control any problems of obesity, just as it does in the entire animal.

Another common fallacy is that the desexed dog loses character. Admittedly desexing is often carried out, both in dogs and bitches, for certain behavioural abnormalities and often dogs will become more gentle but they lose neither their spirit nor their intelligence and provided they are not allowed to become obese are just as active as the entire counterpart.



Both dogs and bitches are usually desexed between 6-12 months of age although the operation can be carried out any time. Your veterinarian surgeon will be more than happy to discuss the details with you.