

The
Range Animal Hospital

E6116 U. S. Highway 2
Ironwood, MI 49938
906-932-3531
1-888-380-6319

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Donald C. Martinson DVM

Stephanie Holloway DVM

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Advanced
Diagnostics, Medicine
Surgery, Dentistry, &
Trauma Care
for
Large & Small Animals

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Castrating Your Dog

Castration in Dogs

General Information

Castration is the surgical removal of the testicles. Such surgery is performed to eliminate sexual activities and render the dog sterile. Castration usually (but not always) reduces a dog's tendency to roam and fight. The general level of aggression may also be reduced. However, castration is not a replacement for obedience training by the owner.

In older dogs, castration may be necessary due to diseases of the testicles or prostate gland.

What are the Advantages?

A castrated dog is less likely to wander off and get into trouble.

A male dog's annoying sexual behavior will likely be eliminated.

Prostate disease is almost unheard of in castrated dogs.

Testicular disease cannot occur.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will it make my dog fat and lazy? -- **No.** Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.

Will it change his personality, disposition or intelligence? -- **No.** Dogs' personalities do not fully develop until 1-2 years of age. If there is a personality change in a dog neutered at a young age, it would have occurred without surgery.

Will it affect his hunting ability. **No.** Only sexual

behavior is regulated by the testicles. Hunting instinct is not.

Surgery? I'm Scared!

With advances in sterile technique and gas anesthesia, veterinary surgery is **extremely safe**, and every precaution before, during and after surgery will be taken. Dr. Martinson, our staff surgeon, has over 21 years of experience in the operating room and has performed this procedure **several thousand times**. Also, we do this procedure as an **outpatient surgery**. Our patients usually go home the day of their surgery. There are, however, a few simple procedures you can carry out at home to minimize risks and prevent unnecessary problems.

Important Considerations Before Surgery:

Good nutrition is very important to reduce surgical stress and aids prompt recovery. If you have not already done so, discuss your dog's diet with the doctor or veterinary technician.

Your dog should be free of intestinal parasites (worms) and all vaccinations should be current before surgery. If you are in doubt, check with your doctor or veterinary technician before surgery.

If your dog is taking medication or has an existing health problem, inform the doctor or veterinary technician before surgery.

Anesthetics are best given on an empty stomach. Do not feed your pet for 8 hours before surgery. Water may be given up to 1 hour before surgery.

Exercise your dog before bringing his to the hospital, making sure he urinates and moves his

bowels. Exercise him again when you arrive at the hospital.

Important Considerations After Surgery:

Restrict your dog's activity for 5 days after surgery.

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur:

If there is swelling, redness or drainage at the incision.

Your dog licks or chews the incision.

Your dog refuses to eat or seems depressed after the first day home.

There is a change in your dog's general health.

Other things you need to know:

Dr. Martinson's technique requires no external sutures. All of the sutures are buried and dissolve after several weeks. As a result most dogs castrated at the Range Animal Hospital **do not need to return for suture removal**. We will tell you if your dog is one of the few that does.

The cost for a dog castration is \$145.00 if your dog is less than 2 years old.

Your dog will be admitted between 7:30AM and 9AM the day of his surgery. Most dogs go home the same day between 4PM and 5PM.

I hope this information helps you, and please call 932-3531 or 1-888-380-6319 (toll free) for an appointment or if you have any further questions.