

BROAD LANE VETS



02476 464789

384a K'WORTH RD BALSALL COMMON CV7 7ER

255 BROAD LANE COVENTRY CV5 7AQ

332 RADFORD RD CV6 3AA

www.broadlanevets.co.uk

WHY NEUTER?

*** NEUTERING HAS MULTIPLE BENEFITS FOR BOTH MALE AND FEMALE PETS***

CATS

Tom cats which have not been castrated will tend to roam, and are therefore at much higher risk of being involved in a road traffic accident. They also tend to fight more with other cats, putting them at risk of developing abscesses and contracting diseases such as FIV through bite wounds. They will also tend to spray urine to mark the home as their territory. All of these behaviours are greatly reduced by getting your male cat castrated. Castration renders the male infertile. Castration is performed from 6months' of age.

Female cats can enter puberty from as young as 4 months' of age. By spaying, you will prevent your female cat from undergoing the painful mating procedure and prevent unwanted pregnancies, which pose a considerable health risk in young females. It also reduces her exposure to disease through mating and through bites. Neutering female cats early completely eliminates diseases of the ovaries and womb, and reduces the incidence of breast cancer. Spaying is advised at 5-6months' of age. Neutering your cat, male or female, is the best and most humane way of reducing the stray cat population, so preventing healthy unwanted cats/kittens from being destroyed.

DOGS

Intact **male** dogs can sniff out a female in heat from miles away, and may do anything to follow this scent. This places them at risk of road traffic accidents and other injuries through escape/roaming. Uncastrated males are more likely to get into fights with other dogs, and will also pose a greater risk of aggression towards people due to the high levels of testosterone present. Castration reduces these and other negative behaviours such as leg-humping and urine marking. Castration renders the male infertile. Castration also has proven health benefits for your dog. Castrated dogs cannot get testicular cancer. The incidence of anal tumours, prostate disease, and certain hernias is also greatly reduced by castration. A common myth is that castration will change your dog's personality – this is not true. Personality is more about genetics and environment than sex hormones. Castration can be performed from 6months' of age upwards, though we normally advise waiting until males are cocking their leg.

We recommend all bitches are spayed. Unneutered **females** can become aggressive and exhibit erratic behaviours due to hormone fluctuations. Females typically have two seasons per year and can create quite a mess via the discharging of blood. Spaying prevents seasons and unwanted pregnancies but also has considerable health benefits. Following a season, unneutered females may undergo "phantom" pregnancies and can develop life-threatening infections of the womb requiring emergency surgery. Neutering completely removes the risk of ovarian cysts, tumours and womb cancer. Spaying early virtually eliminates the chances of your bitch ever developing breast cancer. Whether to spay before or after the first season is a subject of much debate, and recent evidence has found little difference in terms of potential complications. If you wish to wait until after a season, we advise booking this in 2-3months after the bleeding stops. However our recommendation now is to spay all breeds at 6-7months old, as recovery time will be quicker and the health benefits generally greater at this age. We also charge less for spaying at this age as the procedure, though still major surgery, is less technically challenging.

RABBITS

Male rabbits often exhibit aggression, and are much easier to handle if castrated. Castration renders them infertile. **Female** unneutered rabbits can also become aggressive. Spaying prevents pregnancy. There are considerable health benefits too, as the incidence of womb cancer in unneutered female rabbits is extremely high. We therefore recommend the neutering of all rabbits, which can be done from 4months' of age.

FERRETS

Hobs may be vasectomised. However the success rate is not 100%, so this is only recommended in certain specific situations. Please discuss this further with a vet. Castration is however much simpler. Hobs which undergo castration tend to be gentler, friendlier and less smelly, making them better pets.

Unspayed **jills** develop oestrogen-induced anaemia during a season, which can be life-threatening. We therefore advise the spaying of all jills.

Castration and spaying of ferrets is normally performed during the first Spring after their birth.