



# Moonee Valley Animal Hospital

ABN 48 131 057 522

Dr DEAN NEWLAND BSc (Hons) BVSc (Hons)

Dr JEN OAKMAN BVSc (Hons)

Dr CINDY TURNBULL BVSc

216 Keilor Rd North Essendon VIC 3041

Phone 9379 3007

[www.mooneevalleyanimalhospital.com.au](http://www.mooneevalleyanimalhospital.com.au)

## The benefits of male dog castration / desexing.

Castration is a relatively simple procedure where the testes are surgically removed through a small skin incision under general anaesthetic. After the surgery the majority of dogs experience little or no obvious discomfort.

The main reason castration, and not vasectomy, is performed is that the most important benefits of this procedure are related to testosterone reduction rather than simply preventing breeding.

- 1. Prostate disease/cancer.** One of the most common diseases affecting the older entire male dog is **prostatitis**, which may include inflammation, infection, abscessation and possible cancer of the prostate gland. The prostate gland enlarges with testosterone supply, over the lifetime of an entire male dog. Many affected males can be treated successfully with castration alone.
- 2. Tumours** of the testes are possible, and the risk is increased significantly if one or both testes haven't descended into the scrotum. **Perianal tumours** may develop as a lump around the anus skin area in entire males.
- 3. Perineal hernia.** The muscles around the rectum loosen, allowing internal structures to push out: the bladder or other important organs may become trapped. Occurs mainly (95%) in entire male dogs. Constipation or straining is often the first sign. Treatment is surgical, and castration at the time is usually performed to reduce recurrence.
- 4. Behaviour.** The desexed male dog is less likely to develop **dominance aggression** problems (either towards other dogs or people). Sexually associated behaviours such as **roaming, urine marking, and humping** are reduced with less testosterone. However, it is important to note that many of these unwanted male dog behaviours can quickly become a learnt habit once they have already emerged. For this reason it is advisable that all male dogs not intended for stud use be desexed by **six months of age**.

Contrary to popular belief desexing will **not** alter the normal innate behaviour of your dog, nor will it cause him to become fat and lazy – this is a consequence of overfeeding and inadequate exercise for his needs.