

 **CDTS**  
Cranbourne Dog  
Training School

*"Positively the best- for you and your dog"*

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## NEUTERING MALE DOGS

The behaviour of male dogs can often be related to the 'sex drive', resulting in undesirable activities such as roaming, mounting, frequent erection, urinating in the house, aggression (in some cases) and general lack of response to training.

In the majority of dogs, neutering will result in a marked improvement in the behavioural problems of a sexual nature.

It can take up to 6 months for you to notice an improvement in behaviour but once achieved this will be permanent.

Contrary to popular belief, this will not cause weight gain, though the dog may require less food per day to maintain optimal weight, due to a reduced activity level and a slower metabolism, therefore the diet must therefore be adjusted accordingly.

Nor will it make a male dog less territorially protective; he will still bark at intruders.

The operation can be performed as soon as the testicles are both settled in the sacs, this can be anytime from 6 months onwards. However, we strongly suggest that if you are not encountering any behavioural problems, you leave your dog entire until he has reached one year of age.

There is evidence to suggest that castration at an early age can increase the likelihood of the onset of canine hypothyroidism, bone cancer, cardiac tumours and cruciate ligament problems. (Sanborn, L. J. 2007, Zink, C 2005)

From a behaviourist's perspective, castration is not normally recommended for dogs that are fearful by nature, as removing testosterone may make fear-related problems worse. All dogs (male and female) go through flight periods between approximately 9 – 12 months old and it is unwise to castrate your dog during this time.

Please be aware that if you are castrating an older dog with an established behaviour problem, castration alone will not be sufficient to stop any learnt behaviour. A behaviour modification programme may also have to be implemented.

The operation is, however, a simple one with minimal discomfort and a rapid recovery rate.