



Collaroy Veterinary Services

Complete and total pet care · open 7 days · 24hr emergency service · boarding · grooming · fully equipped · modern facilities

Information sheet

De-sexing your dog

Why have your dog de-sexed?

There are a number of reasons to have your dog de-sexed if you are not intending to breed.

- Health – your dog will be less likely to suffer from disease later in life if de-sexed. De-sexed female dogs cannot get infection of the uterus (often a life threatening condition) or phantom pregnancies and are much less prone to breast cancer. Male dogs will be free from testicular cancer and will suffer fewer prostate problems and some types of cancer in later life.
- Behaviour – de-sexed dogs will not have the urge to escape from the home in search of a mate. Problems such as aggression are less frequent in de-sexed animals.
- Population control – across Australia over 60,000 cats and dogs are unwanted and out to sleep by the RSPCA each year. By having your pet de-sexed you will be sure not to contribute to the problem.
- Registration – compulsory lifetime registration is significantly less costly for de-sexed animals.

De-sexing myths

- Weight gain – dogs that are de-sexed do burn fewer calories. The simple way to ensure that this does not translate into weight gain is to ensure that you are feeding an appropriate amount of food, if you need advice on diet please speak to our helpful staff.
- Temperament – some believe that allowing a bitch to have a litter of pups will improve her temperament, however there is no evidence to support this.

When is de-sexing done?

We recommend de-sexing at approximately 6 months of age. At this age your dog will be more physically mature to cope with anaesthesia. NSW legislation requires that all cats and dogs be registered from 6 months of age; if your dog is de-sexed this is at a considerably reduced rate.



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What happens in de-sexing?

Your dog will be given a sedative and pain control prior to the general anaesthetic. You will notice that after surgery your dog will have an area on the front leg that is clipped, this is where the general anaesthetic is given into the vein. Ongoing anaesthetic is then given as a gas via a tube down the throat. The belly in females, and the scrotum and penis area in males is then clipped of hair and cleaned. All the reproductive organs (uterus and ovaries in the female, testes in the male) are then removed while your dog is unconscious and more pain control is given. Males will have stitches just behind the penis, females will have stitches behind the belly button. These stitches will be removed 10 days after surgery. Your dog will usually be able to go home the same evening and you may find your dog is a bit drowsy for a day or so after the anaesthetic and surgery.

What do I do before de-sexing?

Call the clinic to book your dog in for de-sexing about 1 week in advance if possible. We do these operations on all weekdays. Your dog can have dinner the night before surgery, but should have no food after midnight. Water can be given until you drop off your dog at the clinic in the morning between 8-9.30am.

Is there any special care required after de-sexing?

Yes, your dog will need to be kept quiet and warm for the first night at home. You will need to restrict exercise while the stitches are in place and you will not be able to bathe or swim your dog. We will give you more detailed information when you pick up your dog after surgery.