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## **Why should we neuter our pet?**

There are significant benefits to neutering with regard to your cat or dog's health and behaviour.

Females come into season around twice a year for dogs and pretty much any time for cats! During this time they become strongly attractive to the opposite sex. This can lead to both sexes wandering and increasing the risk of them getting lost or involved in accidents.

Benefits to neutering females:

- Neutered females no longer have the seasons and cannot then have babies.
- Removal of the ovaries during the procedure removes the risk of ovarian tumours.
- Neutered females are no longer at risk of 'false pregnancies' - although this is fairly rare in cats.
- If they are neutered early it will reduce the risk of development of mammary tumours later in life.
- The removal of the uterus will ensure your bitch cannot suffer with a life-threatening infection of the uterus known as a pyometra, which tends to occur later in life. Queens can also suffer with this, but it is much less common.

Benefits to neutering males:

- A neutered male will no longer be attracted to on-heat females and therefore less likely to wander.
- Removal of the testicles during castration will remove the risk of testicular tumours and torsions that can occur.
- Neutering will reduce the risk of some common prostatic problems in dogs linked to the hormones produced in the testicles.
- Many behavioural benefits are linked to neutering including reducing urine marking, reducing mounting behaviours, decreased straying and it can also reduce aggression towards other males. All of these behaviours may have other links and triggers and castration cannot be guaranteed to solve all problems.

Any questions regarding the timing of neutering, prices or getting your pet booked in for an operation, please call the surgery at the details below.

**If you need any other information or wish to discuss any of the issues here further, please contact one of the nursing team at the Vale Veterinary Group Ltd, Kidderminster  
01562 822692**