



Rabbit Neutering

Rabbit neutering isn't just about preventing reproduction, it is essential for a rabbit's health and wellbeing. As rabbits should, ideally, live in pairs or groups for optimum welfare, neutering allows them to do this safely. Neutering also prevents life-threatening health problems, particularly in female rabbits, and unwanted pregnancies.

It is essential to neuter both rabbits or all individuals of a mixed-sex group to ensure they live happily, as unneutered males may still attempt to mount females which can trigger fighting, causing stress to all involved. Mounting can still occur in neutered pairs, however, this will be mostly due to dominance and is a natural behaviour and can be exhibited by both female and male rabbits. Alternatively, if a female rabbit is left unsprayed around male companions she will experience recurrent false pregnancies, again causing possible aggression and stress.

Male Rabbits

Male rabbits can technically be castrated at any age once their testicles have descended, around 10-12 weeks, however, waiting until around 4 months is preferable due to weight and anaesthetic safety. A pre-op check can be arranged to discuss individual cases to ensure we are offering the best advice for your pet.

If your unneutered male is housed with an unneutered female, it is best to keep them separate but in close proximity so they can still interact and smell each other but unable to impregnate her. They become sexually mature from 12 weeks of age. Often wire mesh can be used in this instance.

The procedure for males is relatively straight forward and non-invasive. A general anaesthetic will be given and the testicles are then removed from their sacs and the tubes tied off.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT MALES REMAIN SEPERATED FROM FEMALES FOR 6 WEEKS POST-NEUTERING TO ALLOW FOR ANY RESIDUE IN THE TUBES TO HAVE DISSIPATED.

Female Rabbits

Spaying can be done from 12 weeks of age, however, due to the size of their uterus it is recommended to wait until around 16-20 weeks minimum, but ideally before 9 months as this can pose surgical challenges due to fat surrounding the uterus and it's blood supply, as well as the higher risk of her falling pregnant. We would recommend arranging a pre-op check as soon as you are able for us to discuss the most suitable plan for your pet. This procedure for females is more intrusive- a general anaesthetic is administered to remove her uterus and ovaries are via an incision in her abdomen. Females are sterile as soon as they have been spayed, however, they will need time to recover and their site wound to heal- usually 7-10 days is ample. If they are housed with their companion straight after the procedure, it is important that they are gentle with her, otherwise, they should be kept separate as above, in close proximity but still able to see and smell each other.

Post-Operative Care

It is advised that rabbits be kept warm and dry after surgery. Often it is advised to bring outdoor rabbits inside to convalesce. Plenty of water, hay and food should be available at all times. Recovery time is usually between 7- 10 days, kept as calm as possible during this time to aid in healing.