



## Why should my pet be desexed?

We strongly recommend desexing for all dogs and cats who are not destined for the show ring and do not belong to registered breeders.

There are many reasons why pet owners should desex their pets. As well as helping to stop pet overpopulation, the following are some of the other benefits associated with desexing cats and dogs.

### Health

- Reduced risk of getting cancer or other diseases of the reproductive organs, such as testicular cancer, prostate cancer/disorders in males, and cystic ovaries, ovarian tumours, acute uterine infections and breast cancer in females, and also other diseases like mammary cancer, perianal tumours and perianal hernias.
- Females can suffer from physical and nutritional exhaustion if continually breeding.
- Pets generally live longer and healthier lives.

### Behavioural

- Pets are less prone to wander, fight, and are less likely to get lost or injured.
- Reduces territorial behaviour such as spraying indoors.
- Less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviours. They become more affectionate and become better companions.
- Eliminates "heat" cycles in female cats and their efforts to get outside in search for a mate.
- Eliminates male dogs' urge to "mount" people's legs.

### Cost

- Reduces the cost to the community of having to care for unwanted puppies and kittens in pounds and shelters.
- No additional food or vet bills for the offspring.
- No need to find homes for unwanted or unexpected litters of puppies or kittens.
- Save money from expensive surgeries from car accidents or fights, which are less likely to occur if your pet doesn't roam around.
- Dumping puppies and kittens is an ethical cost, as well as being illegal and inhumane.

### Responsible Pet Ownership is also extremely important.

Contrary to popular opinion, females do not benefit from having "just one litter." Please also remember that animal charities such as the RSPCA have hundreds of abandoned pets to re-home, some inevitably end up being euthanized. There are other considerations too; potential caesarians, feeding and vaccinating a litter and finding good homes can be time consuming and expensive. Male dogs and cats are more likely to roam and be injured in road traffic accidents and fights if they have not been desexed.

*"caring for the pets of ipswich since 1967"*

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### **The Procedure.**

Desexing is usually done at 5-6 months of age although there is no upper age limit. Your pet will be admitted in the morning and, after being examined by the vet, will be given a sedative & placed on an intravenous drip. The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic. Pain relief and antibiotic injections are administered following surgery. You will be asked to telephone in the afternoon for a progress report and to arrange a time to collect your pet that same afternoon.

### **Recovery.**

Your pet may be sleepy for 24 hours and will need to be kept quiet following the operation. An appointment to remove stitches is required 12-14 days later.

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