

**Castration of Dogs**  
**ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE**  
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**CASTRATION OF DOGS**

The general culture in the UK is that male dogs should be castrated, if not required for breeding. This is a thorny issue for many dog owners. It helps to be objective, when trying to arrive at a decision.

There are issues about which everyone should be aware, before deciding. Most dogs reach puberty at about six months of age. They may or may not show very 'randy' behaviour at that time. It is not clear what factors lead to this normal behaviour becoming anti-social, unacceptable or even a health risk to the dog himself. It can become all of these things. One factor is the absence of the natural ancestral pack environment. This is common to all domestic dogs, however. I believe that a good, solid, loving home, with security and a naturally 'dominant' master will usually lead to very acceptable levels of male-type behaviour, especially if the [diet](#) is natural, fresh and varied, without chemical additives.

Since castration is, after all, a mutilation, it is our opinion that it is better not to do it if you don't have to. It is, of course, important to ensure your entire male does not then give rise to lots of unwanted puppies. There are too many of those in the world already. He can also suffer, both mentally and physically, if walked where 'on heat' bitches have recently been. The residual scent will be easily detected by his sensitive nose. Walks can become a nightmare. Hypersexual dogs can also be a tremendous nuisance to neighbours, can severely damage property and can be a danger on the road. Care is needed on all these fronts.

In many cases, [herbal](#) and [homeopathic](#) treatments can help regain balance, without recourse to surgery.

In cases where normal sexual behaviour transcends the acceptable and persists for a considerable period, despite treatment, castration may be the lesser of two evils. If not, life can be tedious for both dog and family and health problems, such as prostate enlargement are likely.

## *Castration of Dogs - AVMC*

In cases of cryptorchidism, castration is sadly a necessity, preferably before the age of three. If it is not done, cancer is extremely likely.

The disadvantages of castration are that the coat can change, the fat distribution in the body will alter, the dog can more easily become obese and he can lose some of his sparkle and character.

Whether castrated or not, a dog will be healthier on a [fresh and varied diet](#) and will benefit from essential fatty acids, such as in Evening Primrose, Star Flower or Fish Oils. Occasional cautious Zinc supplementation can also be valuable for his ongoing health. If he suffers any of the side-effects of castration, as mentioned above, homeopathy can sometimes help.

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