

Desexing Dogs & Cats

Why should I have my pet Desexed?

Thousands of healthy cats and dogs are put down every year in Australia because they are homeless. By desexing your pet you take an important first step in reducing unwanted litters.

Pet owners are encouraged to desex their animals to reduce the amount of abandoned animals destroyed every year.

Desexing helps reduce the over population of homeless animals. It prevents unwanted births, problems with stray and feral animals, disease, and stops pets from wandering, fighting and killing native wildlife.

Generally desexed animals make better pets and are easier to control. They are more affectionate and become better companions.

Throughout Australia the costs for local government pounds, RSPCA, the Animal Welfare League, private shelters and animal rescues groups to care for, re-house or euthanase stray/abandoned animals are enormous and exceed millions each year. Desexing will reduce the cost to the community to care for these unwanted puppies and kittens.

Benefits of desexing cats

- They live longer, healthier lives;
- It eliminates “heat” cycles and their endless efforts to get outside and find a mate;
- They are less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviour;
- Male cats are less likely to make their territory by spraying strong smelly urine in houses and gardens;
- Desexed cats are less likely to wander, run away or get into fights.
- Desexing cats can reduce the incidence of some health problems such as:
- Uterine, ovarian and breast cancer in females;
- Females can suffer from physical & nutritional exhaustion if continually breeding;
- Prostate cancer and testicular cancer in males.

Benefits of desexing dogs:

Female Dogs:

- Prevents the season cycle which occurs twice a year for three weeks, attracting male dogs;
- Prevents unwanted pregnancies and associated problems such as rearing puppies and finding proper homes for them;
- Prevents breast cancer & uterus problems frequently found in female dogs.

There is no benefit in letting females have one litter before they are desexed. Unless you are a specialist breeder and your female is used as part of a legitimate

breeding plan, with the health of the animal held in the utmost importance, it should be desexed.

Male Dogs:

- Prevents fighting
- Prevents wandering
- Prevents offensive sexual habits
- Prevents other undesirable testosterone driven habits

When can pets be desexed?

Desexing was previously recommended at six months of age, but these days your pet may be desexed as early as 2-3 months of age. Consult your veterinarian for advice regarding the best course of action for your animal.

Penalties apply if animals are abandoned in public places. On the spot fines up to \$220 can be imposed.