

DESEXING

A GOOD HEALTH GUIDE FOR DOGS



Government of South Australia

Dog and Cat Management Board



Why desex my dog?

The benefits of desexing

Desexing your dog is a socially responsible thing to do. Not only does it prevent unwanted litters, but it's shown to reduce aggression, reduce the risk of certain cancers and even reduce your dog's desire to roam.

Many people believe that a bitch should have at least one litter to be a healthy, long-lived dog. There is no evidence to back this up, and desexed dogs are shown to live long and happy lives.

Desexing can only be carried out by a qualified veterinary surgeon, and is a routine procedure performed under general anesthetic.

Under changes to the law, all South Australian dogs born after 1 July 2018 must be desexed. (exemptions apply). These new rules also apply to cats. **For more information on the new laws, visit dogandcatboard.com.au**

Desexing: the Fast Facts

- It reduces the tendency for aggressive behaviours towards people and other dogs.
- It reduces territorial behaviour.
- It helps control your dog's urge to wander.
- It reduces anti-social behaviours like leg mounting (humping), urine marking in male dogs and oestrus bleeding in female dogs.
- It reduces the likelihood of cancer and other diseases of the reproductive organs - uterine, ovarian and mammary diseases in female dogs and testicular cancers, some prostate diseases, perineal hernias and adenomas in male dogs.
- It increases the likelihood of your dog enjoying a longer and happier life.
- It eliminates unwanted litters of puppies.
- There are council registration rebates for desexed dogs. Ask your local council what discounts might apply.
- It's the socially responsible and accepted thing to do.
- It makes managing your dog easier and less stressful.

We understand...
...that the health and behavioural benefits of desexing will assist your dog to cope much better with stressful and challenging situations throughout its life.



What is involved?

Desexing is the surgical sterilisation of your dog under a general anaesthetic and only a qualified veterinary surgeon can undertake this procedure.

For female dogs, it involves the removal of the ovaries and the uterus via a small incision 5 -10cm long either along the abdomen or the flank (the side of the abdomen). For male dogs, it involves the removal of both testicles through a 2-3cm incision just in front of the scrotum. A tattoo can be placed on the inside of your dog's ear to signify it has been desexed.

Your vet will attend to the post-operative requirements of your dog and normally dogs are ready to go home a few hours after the procedure. Your vet will also give you detailed advice on how to properly care for your dog at home in the days following surgery.

What is the cost?

All South Australian local councils offer a significant discount to the cost of council registration for dogs, based on their desexed and /or microchipped status.

Desexing and microchipping procedures can be undertaken by your vet during the same appointment and this can save you money and inconvenience.

Desexing for low income earners

It pays to ask your vet if they offer any concessions. Alternatively, the National Desexing Network helps

people experiencing financial hardship access pet desexing services. Visit their websites at www.ndn.org.au for more information.

When and where to go?

When you bring your new puppy home, make an appointment with your vet. They will give your puppy a thorough health check, make sure there are no problems and discuss vaccination, parasite prevention, behaviour, microchipping and desexing at this first visit.

If you are buying your dog from a breeder who is a member of Dogs SA, you may find that they desex and microchip the puppy before you can take possession of it and all costs are included in the single purchase fee.

Alternatively, a great way to obtain a desexed and microchipped pet is from an animal shelter as they only offer desexed and microchipped dogs for re-homing. Many also undertake behavioural assessments of the dog, allowing the appropriate matching of personality with potential owners and their lifestyle.

Desexing: a Good Owner tip

While the cost of desexing your dog will vary based on its sex, age and the fees of your selected vet, the cost is modest when compared with the benefits that come from it.

To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit dogandcatboard.com.au



An initiative of the **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD** and your local council. Council information and contact details can be located at www.lga.sa.gov.au View the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* along with Information Sheets on selection, health, behaviour and care at www.dogandcatboard.com.au