



WE NEED DESEXING TOO!



It is commonplace to have your cat or dog sterilised to prevent a number of disease conditions but it is often overlooked as to how important this also is for rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats and mice. We've summarised a little about some of the terms commonly used and about the benefits below to help you make an informed decision.

CASTRATION is the term used when sterilising a male animal. The surgery itself is performed under a general anaesthetic and is usually fairly straight forward. It is a day procedure and, in some species, can be performed when your pet is as young as 2 months old.

Although there are some health benefits from sterilising your pet such as testicular cancer prevention, the main benefits achieved from castration in male pets are generally related to behavioural problems that develop as the animal becomes sexually mature. These behaviours include but are not limited to spraying urine, humping/mounting objects, biting, becoming territorial and general aggression towards people and other animals. If castration is performed while the pet is still young then most of these behaviours will be prevented or stop with time. Leaving this surgery until your pet is older sometimes means that these behaviours become learnt and won't entirely stop after the surgery is performed. Breeding your pet will not ease these behaviours and often encourages the behaviours to worsen.

SPEY is the term used when sterilising a female animal. The surgery is performed under a general anaesthetic and is a day procedure for your pet. In some cases, can be performed when your pet is as young as 2-3 months old.

Like males, females can also develop behavioural concerns as they begin to mature and are sometimes even more aggressive. Females can become extremely territorial and protective of their space due to the increased hormone levels they have. Most of these behaviours can be corrected by having your female pet sterilised.

The main concern with female animals and the reason why sterilising them is so important is that they are at an extremely high risk of life threatening conditions if left unsterilised. Up to 80% of unsterilised female rabbits will develop uterine cancer. Female guinea pigs are prone to ovarian cysts, rats to mammary tumours and ferrets can become fatally anaemic while in season. Having your pet spayed will prevent all of these health concerns. Please consider having your male and female rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats and mice sterilised and feel free to discuss with us any questions you may have.

