



CENTRAL VETERINARY HOSPITAL

5245 CENTRAL AVE.
FREMONT, CA 94536

WHEN SHOULD MY DOG BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED?

Ask your veterinarian about the best time to spay or neuter your dog based on their breed, age, and individual needs.

Male



Neuter at 6 months old

Neuter after growth stops (9-15 months old)



Is Your Dog Male or Female?



Female



How Much Will Your Dog Weigh When Fully Grown?



Less than 45 lbs



Spay before first fertility cycle (usually 5-6 months old)



More than 45 lbs



Spay between 5-15 months old

Why is the recommended age range so wide?

- Different breeds stop growing at different ages.
- Delaying neutering until after your male dog is fully grown may decrease their risk of certain cancers, as well as bone, ligament and joint problems in some breeds.

- Different breeds stop growing at different ages.
- In addition to age of maturity, there are some competing risks and benefits that depend on your female dog's breed and lifestyle.
- Spaying BEFORE the first fertility cycle (5-6 months old) DECREASES their risk of mammary cancer and prevents accidental breeding.
- Spaying AFTER your female dog is fully grown (5-15 months old) INCREASES their risk of mammary cancer but DECREASES their risk of certain other cancers, as well as bone, joint, and ligament problems.

(510) 797-7387

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