

Robinson Veterinary Services

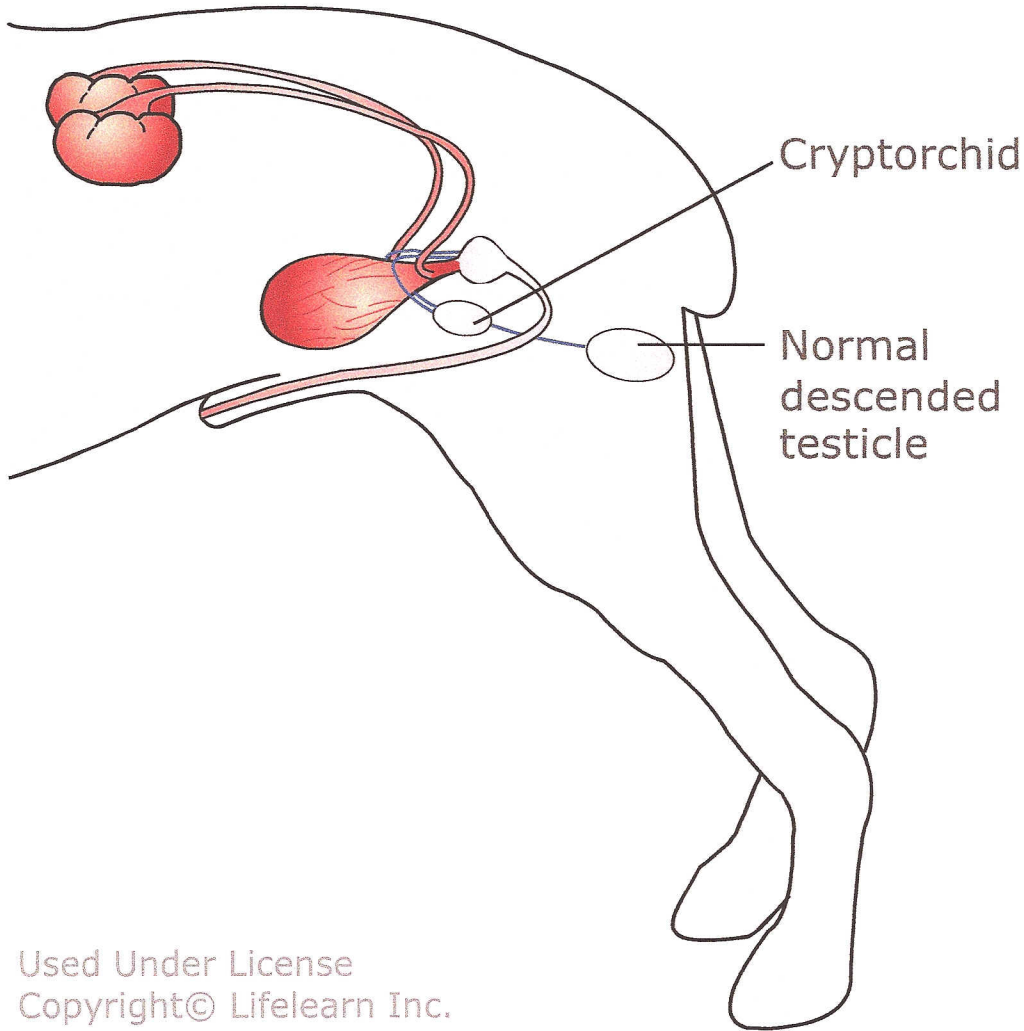
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Cryptorchidism - Male Dog: Male dog urinary and reproductive system with cryptorchidism.



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The testicles develop near the kidneys in the fetus, and descend into the scrotum by way of the inguinal canal around the time of birth. Occasionally, one or both testicles may not descend properly. If this occurs, the dog is said to be either a unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. The retained testicle may be found in the abdomen, in the inguinal canal, or in the subcutaneous tissues within the groin. A retained testicle does not usually produce fertile sperm, but it does produce hormones, and is more prone to becoming cancerous. The condition is usually inherited as a genetic abnormality. All dogs with retained testicles should be neutered (and both testicles removed) for medical and behavioral reasons, and to prevent this genetic abnormality from being passed on. Surgery to remove a retained testicle is always more complicated than a routine castration, especially when the retained testicle is not palpable (able to be felt) during a physical examination. Further details about this subject can be found in our Client Education Handout Series.