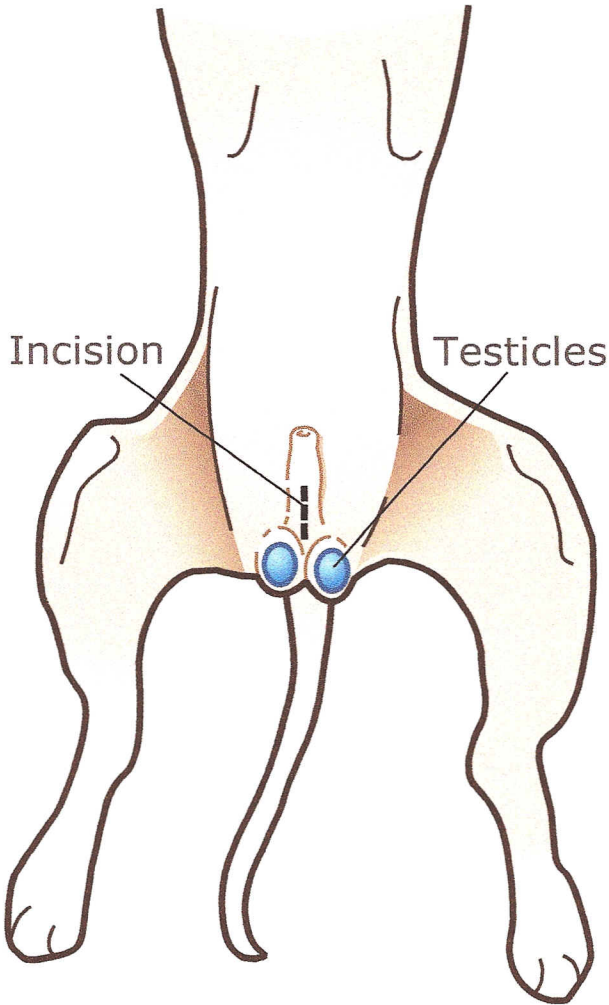


Castration - Dog: Dog in dorsal recumbency for castration.



Used Under License
Copyright© Lifelearn Inc.

Castration is one of 3 terms used to describe sterilization of a dog. The other 2 are neutering and orchidectomy. In the dog, as the testicles and accessory reproductive organs reach sexual maturity, they begin to produce hormones and pheromones that are important for territorial marking. Most dogs begin to 'lift their leg' to urinate when they reach sexual maturity. When a dog is castrated or neutered, both of its testicles are removed. After castration, the dog will be sterile, and the major source of male hormones will have been eliminated. There are both behavioral and medical benefits associated with this procedure. In older intact dogs, castration may be performed to treat testicular tumors, some prostate gland diseases, or to control hormonally dependent diseases such as anal adenomas. Further information is available in our Client Education Handout Series.