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# DESEXING YOUR DOG

## What happens on the day my dog is desexed?

A booking is necessary for the day of the desexing. Your dog is dropped off in the morning and will go home that afternoon or evening. Once admitted your pet will be made to feel as comfortable as possible prior to the surgery and will also receive sedation and pain relief via an injection. This injection (premed) will calm your pet, reduce the amount of anaesthetic required and aid in a smooth recovery. The surgery is performed under sterile conditions, during which your pet is continuously monitored by a nurse. Your pet will also receive pain relief during the surgery also aiding in their recovery from the desexing. After the surgery your pet is closely monitored until they have recovered fully from the anaesthetic.

## What is involved in the desexing (spey) of my female dog?

Desexing a female dog involves abdominal surgery to remove the uterus and both ovaries, also known as an ovariohysterectomy, through a small incision in the belly. Stitches in the surgery site will have to be removed 10 days after the surgery. The left ear is tattooed to identify that she has been desexed.

## What is involved in the desexing (castration) of my male dog?

Desexing a male dog involves the removal of both testes through a small incision near the scrotum. Stitches in the surgery site will have to be removed 10 days after the surgery. The left ear is tattooed to identify that he has been desexed.

## Care after desexing your dog.

After being desexed, your dog will need to be kept quiet for the next 5-7 days with restricted exercise until the stitches are removed. This will involve keeping them inside for the first night and then in a restricted area so they may recover safely and heal well.

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**Beaconsfield  
Veterinary Centre**

Dr Steve Wait B.V.Sc. and Associates

14 Woods Street Beaconsfield VIC 3807  
P.O. Box 469 Beaconsfield VIC 3807

Tel: 9769 8777 Fax: 9769 8788  
Web: [www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au](http://www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au)



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## **What are the benefits of desexing my dog?**

We strongly recommend desexing your dog before adulthood as there are many benefits. Male dogs are less likely to mark their territory with urine and have fewer problems with aggression. A large percentage of male dogs that are left undesexed develop prostate problems.

Desexing your female dog prevents infection of the uterus (pyometra) and dramatically reduces the risk of mammary cancer, while unwanted pregnancies or spotting blood when "on heat" are no longer a concern. Desexed dogs are less likely to wander, reducing the risk of dog fight injuries, accidental poisonings (eg snail bait, ratsac), and being hit by a car. Another benefit, not related to health, is that it is far cheaper to register your desexed dog with the council. So unless you have a desire to breed from your dog (which in itself can have major complications) there are far more benefits to desexing your dog than keeping it entire.

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