

New Alternative to Surgical Castration in Dogs

A new and novel chemical sterililant, called Neutersol, has been approved and released for use by veterinarians for the sterilization of male dogs between the ages of 3 months and 10 months of age.

Neutersol is administered via injection into each testicle. This causes atrophy of the testicular tissue, thereby effectively, and permanently, sterilizing the male dog. The procedure is performed on an outpatient basis, and the cost will be similar to that of surgical castration. However, with any procedure there are advantages and disadvantages.

The Advantages are:

No anesthetic or sedation is required, although a few dogs may need a light sedative.

No lengthy or overnight hospital stay.

Potentially less pain than surgical castration.

Safe—the major side effects are stomach upset and inflammation and irritation of the scrotum.

Less invasive than surgery.

It is permanent, and 99.6% effective.

Saves the time for both the owner and the veterinarian

The Disadvantages are:

Potential for failure if chemical is not injected correctly.

May take up to 60 days for atrophy to occur, so dog must be kept from intact females for this period of time.

Not useful for cryptorchid dogs (i.e. non-descended testicles)

Only 99.6% effective whereas surgery is 100% effective.

Cannot be used in male dogs less than 3 months or older than 10 months of age.

Only decreases testosterone production by 41% to 52%, so hormone related behavior might still be seen (roaming, marking, aggression, mounting)

May not decrease the incidence of hormone related diseases (prostatic hyperplasia, Prostatic cancer, testicular tumors, perianal gland tumors).

Only useful in male dogs.

May be difficult to differentiate a Neutersol sterilized dog from a dog with congenitally small or atrophied testicles, and therefore, a few Neutersol sterilized dogs may undergo surgical castration as well.

Neutersol is a fast, safe, and effective means for sterilization of the 3-month to 10-month old male dog. However, as with any medical procedure, the owner and the veterinarian should consult on which procedure is right for your pet.

Jay Rydberg, DVM
Hoegemeyer Animal Clinic
1516 Sidney Baker
Kerrville, TX 78028
830-896-6507