

Determine whether she or he has professional training and academic discipline in successfully training aggressive, as this training and experience are beyond what CROT certification requires.

Custom Myth

Neutering as a Quick Fix for All Behavior Problems

Many people think that neutering a dog will immediately get rid of all of its behavior problems. Although it helps resolve undesirable behaviors caused by a higher level of testosterone, **neutering isn't guaranteed to resolve all behavior problems in every dog's brain.** Although dog trainers can predict the effectiveness of testosterone in your dog's brain, it won't eliminate the hormonal complexity. The effects of neutering are largely dependent on your dog's individual personality, physiology, and history.

Neutering is unlikely to change fearful or aggressive behavior toward people or other dogs unless that aggression is specifically related to competition over access to female dogs. If your dog continues to have behavior problems after you've neutered, please see our article, [Dog's Testosterone: How to Know if It's Affecting Your Dog's Behavior](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/how-will-neutering-change-my-dogs-behavior), to locate a behavior expert near you.

Potential Detriments of Neutering

Although neutering is beneficial in many ways, there are a few potential effects to be aware of:

- A small percentage of male dogs become attractive to intact male dogs after being neutered (other male dogs may become sexually aroused and try to mount your neutered dog).
- Dogs neutered before they've finished growing may grow slightly taller than they would have had they not been neutered.
- There is a very slight increased risk for neutered dogs to develop osteosarcoma and hemangiosarcoma (two kinds of cancer), particularly those breeds that are already predisposed to these diseases.
- Dogs neutered prior to five months of age may be slightly more likely to develop hip dysplasia and cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) injuries, particularly those breeds that are already predisposed to these diseases.
- Neutered dogs are at increased risk of developing hypogonadism.
- Physiological changes after neutering may affect your dog's metabolism and appetite, making him prone to weight gain. There's some evidence to suggest that puppies neutered before five months of age are at greater risk of becoming obese than puppies neutered later. This potential drawback is easily combated with appropriate diet and exercise. If you notice that your dog looks overweight, you can decrease the amount of food you give him and increase his exercise. If you're not sure if your dog's weight is appropriate, please consult your veterinarian.

It's important to realize that the overall drawbacks of neutering are minimal relative to the benefits. However, you should discuss both the pros and cons with your veterinarian to make the best decision for the health and well-being of your individual dog.

Related Links

Trimming Your Dog's Nails <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/how-will-neutering-change-my-dogs-behavior>
Long, untrimmed nails on dogs come with various health hazards, such as infection or an irregular gait that can cause skeletal damage. Although trimming your dog's nails can seem difficult and daunting, it is an important grooming practice.

Does Spaying Change a Dog? <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/how-will-neutering-change-my-dogs-behavior>
Spaying has lots of medical benefits for your dog, but it can also affect her behavior. Having your dog spayed won't affect her working abilities, temperament, playfulness or personality, but it can change the more emotional behaviors associated with the heat cycle.

Introducing Your Dog to a New Cat <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/how-will-neutering-change-my-dogs-behavior>
Many dogs and cats get along very well, especially if they've grown up with each other or have some experience living with the other species. If your dog hasn't ever met a cat, adopting one can take challenges. Here's how to handle them.

Introducing Your Dog to a New Dog <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/how-will-neutering-change-my-dogs-behavior>
Adding another dog to your household can bring joy and your current dog more fun and companionship. However, your current dog might not be especially excited to meet the new dog at first. Find out how to make the transition a smooth one.

Stuff that KONGs <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/how-will-neutering-change-my-dogs-behavior>
The KONG is a durable, indestructible rubber toy with hollow center. When stuffed with food, it provides dogs with a healthy outlet for their natural desire to chew and lick. Here's how to use it for your dog's maximum enjoyment.

When Your Dog Won't Eat His Pill <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/how-will-neutering-change-my-dogs-behavior>
Some dogs will eat anything and everything—including their medications. However, most dogs are reluctant to gobble down pills and capsules. Find clever tricks to help your dog learn how to give your dog a pill.



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