

Desexing Small Animals

Why should I desex my pet?

There are many benefits to the early desexing of your pet. These include the reduced risk of injury from wandering onto roads, or as a result of fighting. A desexed animal is also more amenable to training, less likely to urinate in the house, and will be less aggressive. As a result, your pet is more likely to become a beloved member of the family.

In addition, desexing your pet can reduce the risk of disease. For instance, female dogs that are desexed before their first season, have virtually zero risk of breast cancer; while desexed male dogs have no risk of testicular cancer, and the risk of prostate cancer is greatly reduced.

We recommend desexing at 5 ½—6 months of age .

What does the desexing process involve for my pet?

At Bendigo Animal Hospital, desexing a pet involves the following safety and comfort measures:

- Use of the safest anaesthetic agents, and careful monitoring by a surgical nurse, including monitoring of blood oxygen levels;
- A separate, sterile pack of instruments and surgical materials for each pet, thereby reducing the risk of infection;
- A range of pain relieving medication, so that your pet is back to his or her old self as soon as possible;
- Surgery in a dedicated, sterile surgical theatre.

Common myths associated with desexing

There are many myths about what may result from desexing a pet; however, in reality, there are no negative side-effects for your pet's quality of life. Some of the common myths include:

- My pet will become fat and lazy. Just as with humans, this can only occur if your pet has an improper diet, and/or insufficient exercise.
- My pet will lose its personality. Your pet is likely to be calmer after the operation; otherwise, they will be exactly the same.
- My pet will experience on going pain for weeks after the operation. The area operated on will be tender, of course, but only for a few days. We will provide you with all the necessary after-care information when you collect your pet after surgery, so that you can assist your pet in making a full and speedy recovery.
- My pet will feel less "male" or "female" after the desexing operation. Your set will not suffer a blow to his or her ego as a result of surgery. After the first few days, they won't even be aware it has happened!

If you have any further questions, we are more than happy to speak with you about your concerns.