

# Spaying & Neutering

*Spaying and Neutering in Rottweilers: What New Puppy Owners Need to Know*  
Spaying (female sterilisation) and neutering (male sterilisation) are important decisions every dog owner will face. While these procedures help prevent unwanted litters and certain health or behavioural problems, the timing and method of sterilisation is particularly critical in large breed dogs like Rottweilers. Rottweilers are a slow-maturing, large breed, and their growth plates and hormonal balance play a big role in their long-term health. Making an informed decision can protect your puppy from avoidable health issues later in life.

## *Why Early Spaying/Neutering Can Be Harmful for Large Breed Dogs* *Skeletal Development*

Rottweilers grow rapidly during the first 18–24 months of life. Growth plates (the soft cartilage at the ends of bones) close only once the dog reaches full maturity. Sex hormones (oestrogen and testosterone) regulate this closure—removing them too early leads to prolonged bone growth. This can result in abnormal joint angles, hip dysplasia, cruciate ligament injuries, and arthritis later in life.

*Increased Risk of Orthopaedic Disorders*  
Studies show that early neutering (before 12 months) doubles the risk of cranial cruciate ligament tears in large breeds.

Hip and elbow dysplasia risk is higher in dogs altered before skeletal maturity.

*Increased Risk of Certain Cancers*  
Early sterilisation is linked to higher rates of osteosarcoma (bone cancer), hemangiosarcoma (blood vessel cancer), and lymphoma in large and giant breeds.

*Hormonal Development and Behaviour*  
Hormones help stabilise temperament and support correct muscle and bone development.

Removing hormones too soon can contribute to fearfulness, anxiety, or reactivity, especially in working breeds like Rottweilers.



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## *Recommended Age for Sterilisation in Rottweilers*

### *Males (Neutering):*

*Ideally after 18–24 months of age, once physical and hormonal maturity is reached.*

*Waiting allows full skeletal growth and stronger muscle/joint development.*

### *Females (Spaying):*

*Common recommendation is after the first or second heat cycle (usually 18–24 months).*

*Spaying before the first season can increase risks of orthopaedic issues and urinary incontinence.*

*Allowing a female Rottweiler to go through at least one cycle gives her hormonal system time to mature properly.*

### *Methods of Spaying in Female Dogs*

#### *Traditional Spay (Ovariohysterectomy)*

*Removal of the uterus and both ovaries.*

*Completely prevents pregnancy and eliminates the risk of pyometra (life-threatening uterine infection).*

*But it also eliminates all hormones, which may contribute to the risks listed above if done too early.*

#### *Ovary-Sparing Spay (OSS)*

*The uterus is removed but one or both ovaries are left intact.*

*Prevents pregnancy and pyometra, but keeps hormone production to support growth and long-term health.*

*Heat cycles may still occur (without risk of pregnancy).*

#### *Laparoscopic Spay (Keyhole Surgery)*

*A minimally invasive technique, usually removing ovaries only.*

*Faster recovery and less pain.*

*Still causes full loss of hormones if both ovaries are removed.*

#### *Hysterectomy (less common)*

*Removal of the uterus but leaving both ovaries.*

*Similar to ovary-sparing spay—prevents pregnancy but retains hormones.*



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## *Alternatives for Males*

### *Traditional Neuter (Castration)*

*Surgical removal of the testicles.*

*Prevents reproduction, lowers testosterone.*

### *Vasectomy*

*The vas deferens (sperm ducts) are cut but testicles remain.*

*Prevents pregnancy while keeping hormones intact.*

*Still rare in veterinary practice, but a good compromise for large breeds.*

### *Key Takeaways for Rottweiler Puppy Owners*

*Do not rush sterilisation. Wait until your Rottweiler is physically and hormonally mature (18–24 months).*

*Discuss different methods with your veterinarian. Consider hormone-preserving options like ovary-sparing spays or vasectomies if available.*

*Balance health and lifestyle factors. If you cannot manage a female in heat or an intact male responsibly, speak to your vet about the safest options for your situation.*

*Remember: Each dog is an individual—your vet and breeder can guide you on the best time and method for your puppy.*

👉 *For our Rottweiler owners:*

*Your puppy's long-term health and soundness are our priority. Please reach out to me anytime for guidance on when and how to spay or neuter your Rottweiler—I am always Available*



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