

Adams Vets™



It is a sad truth that the number of kittens and puppies born every year is far greater than the number of good homes that can be found for them. As a result, thousands of healthy animals are destroyed and many more unwanted cats and dogs are left to fend for themselves. Having your pet neutered will not only help to reduce these numbers, it is also one of the simplest, safest and most practical ways of safeguarding your pet`s health and welfare.

Some benefits about neutering your pet are:

- **Female dogs-** Spaying will stop the bleeding that occurs with every heat cycle and prevent any changes in behaviour associated with heat cycle. Females that are not spayed, but who do not have puppies, may develop false pregnancy or infection in the womb. Early spaying of females reduces the risk of them developing mammary cancer (breast cancer) later in life.
- **Female cats-** Unless she is neutered a female cat will come into season three or four times a year and she could be having litters of kittens almost constantly throughout her life. Motherhood takes a lot out of a cat and having several litters is likely to shorten her life expectancy. The behaviour of a female cat in season changes varies markedly - she may appear nervous, she may either hide away or

seek your constant attention. She will also advertise her availability to potential mates by spraying urine around the house and garden and she is likely to roll around on the floor on her back. Unless you want a female to have a litter of kittens she must be kept inside away from tomcats during each season. Neutering will stop the changes that occurs with every season and prevent these unwelcome changes in her behaviour.



. **Male dogs**- Some male dogs develop antisocial behaviour when they reach maturity. This may be in the form of aggressive or sexual behaviour - mounting other dogs or people!! Uncastrated dogs, if left to their own devices, may patrol a wide area in search of a mate and can detect a female in season a long way away. A dog who wanders is far more likely to be involved in a car accident. Surgical castration of male dogs also reduces the risk of them developing diseases of the prostate or testicles in later life.

. **Male cats**- Uncastrated tomcats will patrol a wide area in search of a mate and can detect a female in season over long distances. A tomcat who wanders is more likely to be involved in a car accident or

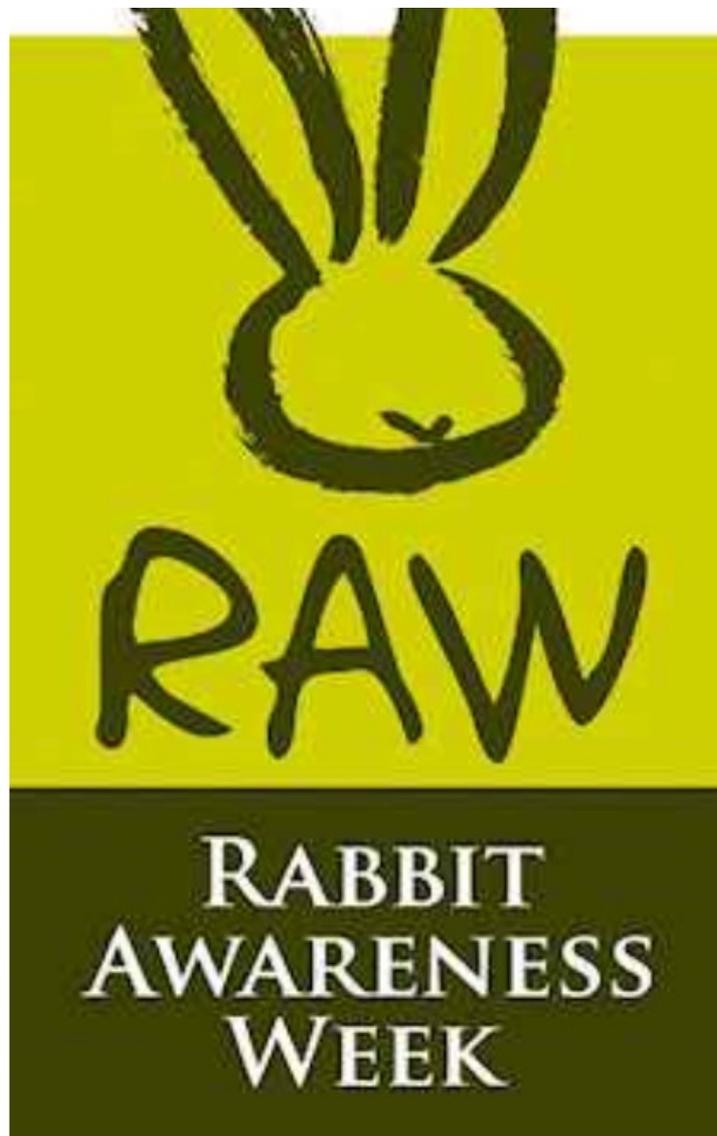
become involved in fights with other males. This brings a risk of physical injury and infection with dangerous viruses such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus which is mostly spread by biting. Tomcats also mark their territory - including parts of your house - with their urine. This has a powerful and extremely unpleasant smell which is often difficult to get rid of.

There is no upper age limit for neutering your pet. You may wish to have your pet neutered if you acquire it as an adult or you may want to have a litter or two before your pet is retired as a breeding animal. We are happy to discuss with you the best time for neutering your pet.

All operations requiring a general anaesthetic involve a certain amount of risk and, on rare occasions, there may be complications after the operation. Some known complications of the operation are excessive bleeding during the operation and problems with the wound site afterwards. It is important that your pet does not lick or nibble at the wound site.

Neutering will not have any significant effect on your pet's lifestyle apart from eliminating its sexual behaviour. Most owners find that any changes in their pet's personality are for the better as many neutered pets are more affectionate. It is important to pay careful attention to your dog's weight in the months after neutering and if necessary to adjust their dietary intake to avoid weight gain.





**We are offering free health checks in June
to ensure your rabbit is in the best of
health**

It's Rabbit Awareness Week, and the focus this year
is on diet

Did you know

Ideally, rabbits should be fed a diet that closely mimics the food they'd eat in the wild - essentially, made up mostly of grass or hay. 85-90% of a rabbit's diet should be fresh, high quality feeding hay and grass on a daily basis. In addition to this, we'd recommend feeding a small amount of nuggets (20-25g per kg bodyweight -

but not muesli) and a handful of fresh greens twice daily.

If you're not sure of the most suitable diet for your four-legged friend, please do get in touch with us - we're here to help! [#RAW2017](#) [#HoptoHay](#)

Ask the vet



David Chania

BVSc MRCVS

You've probably heard of acupuncture in people, but did you know animals can also benefit from this ancient art?

Two of our vets, Andrea and David, are trained in acupuncture and can provide this service at either of our practices in Church Road, Wavertree or Longmoor Lane, Fazakerley.

What is acupuncture? Is it all just hippy nonsense?

Acupuncture was originally practiced in China and other Eastern cultures to treat a wide variety of illnesses. The traditional Chinese medicine approach to acupuncture is aimed at physical, emotional and spiritual factors, restoring the balance between Yin and Yang as well as improving the flow of Qi and blood.

emotional and spiritual factors, restoring the balance between Yin and Yang as well as improving the flow of Qi and blood.

Scientific research into acupuncture over the past 40 years now explains more about how acupuncture works, and this has brought about the greater recognition and acceptance of acupuncture within the scientific community.

How do our vets use acupuncture? Our vets will always aim to get an accurate diagnosis of the problem and will recommend the best treatment options. In many cases acupuncture is best used in conjunction with conventional medicine however, in some situations, it can be used as a sole treatment.

Adding acupuncture to a treatment plan can help to reduce the number of medications a patient needs and therefore improve their quality of life. Each treatment is specifically tailored to an individual through extensive history taking and detailed examination, so the number of needles etc will vary from animal to animal.

Is acupuncture safe? Acupuncture is extremely safe when practiced correctly and is well accepted by the majority of animals.

Which problems can acupuncture help with? Pain is one of the most common things that acupuncture is used for - whether this is due to long term arthritis, spinal problems or even just muscle strains. Acupuncture can also be really helpful in the rehabilitation of pets following orthopaedic or spinal surgeries.

Acupuncture can also be of great benefit to medical conditions in pets, such as gastrointestinal disease, urinary disorders, epilepsy and much more.

Does it work for everyone? No, as with any treatment, there are a small percentage of animals that will not respond to acupuncture.

How do I find out more? Book in for a consultation with our receptionists, or speak to David and Andrea who will be happy to give you more information.

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