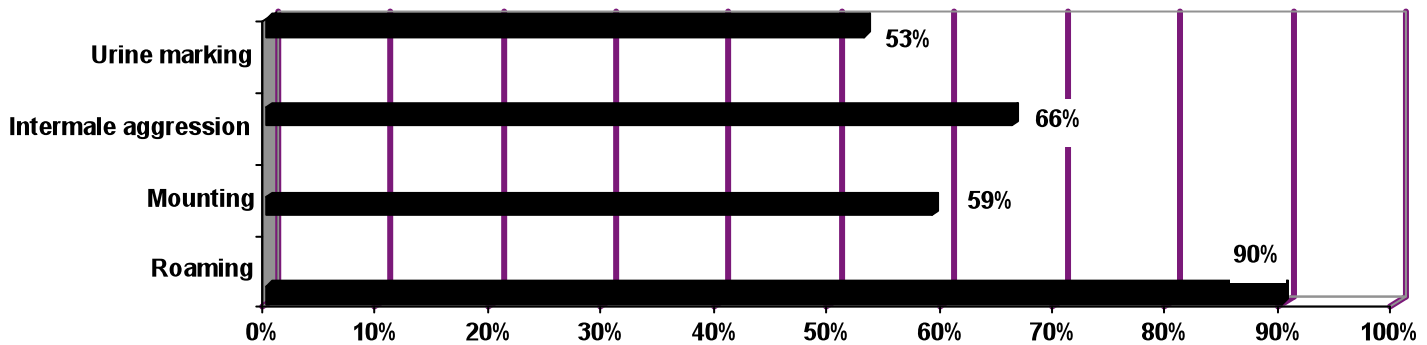


## EFFECTS OF DOG CASTRATION



### Behavioral changes, following the castration of adult male dogs.

Castration has been employed for years to *alter the behavior of male animals*. This procedure is very effective in *reducing typically masculine behavioral traits in dogs*.

#### STUDY PROVING THE EFFECTS OF CASTRATION

A retrospective study of 42 dogs, which had been castrated between 6 months and 12 years of age, indicated that within 6 months following surgery, **50%-70% of the dogs decreased mounting people and animals, urine marking in the house, and inter male aggression behavior. Roaming behavior declined by about 90%.**

Approximately, ½ these dogs showed a decline in these behaviors within two weeks and the rest within 6 months following surgery. The age of the dog at the time of castration did not appear to influence the effects of surgical procedure.

#### OWNER'S COMMENTS

Several owners commented on their dogs *appeared calmer* after castration, but there was no indication that any of the dogs became abnormally inactive or lethargic. All the owners expressed *positive comments* concerning the effects of castration.

#### HYPERACTIVITY

Dogs that underwent surgery because of hyperactivity *did not reduce their activity level* following surgery, nor did the dogs that were protective of their property show any decrease in their protectiveness.

#### SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Some dogs may retain mating activities after castration for a short period of time. This may be due to pre-castration sexual experience. There is always a *considerable reduction* in this activity and with time, it normally *disappears completely*.

#### MALE AGGRESSION

Male dogs are presented far more often than females for **dominance aggression**. It is not clear what relationship there is between testosterone and dominance aggression of dogs directed toward people. These dogs do not begin exhibiting aggression until sometime *after reaching puberty*. Since most typically male behavior traits are *affected by castration* and dominance aggression is most definitely a masculine behavior trait, it is logical to assume that *castration may affect this behavior*. However, persistence in this trait may be influenced by the length of time the dog had engaged in this behavior prior to castration.

This method of influencing male aggression will be *more effective in younger dogs* and does suppress the expression of dominance in older animals.

#### WEIGHT GAIN AND FAILURE TO PROCREATE

These are the only two major side effects of castration. There is no doubt that neutered pets gain weight easily, however with careful attention to diet and exercise this can be avoided.

#### **Castration does NOT change your dog's personality.**

All round, veterinary surgeons would recommend castration as an *effective resolution for behavior problems*.