

Neutering Policy

The scale and variety of the work performed by Mayhew each and every year in caring for unwanted and abandoned dogs and cats emphasises the need to address the considerable number of animals in need that are experiencing unnecessary suffering.

Neutering is one of the ways in which Mayhew addresses this issue, and is one of its primary objectives. Mayhew regards neutering as a hallmark of responsible and caring pet ownership. The benefits are promoted through all channels of our work, and are implemented via our rehoming and community outreach projects.

Our veterinary and animal care team abide by the following principles and practices:

- Before being available for rehoming, all animals are neutered.
- A potential adopter who already has an animal/s must ensure those animals are neutered prior to an adoption taking place.
- We will encourage all animals brought to us temporarily – for example through our Pet Refuge scheme – to be neutered, and offer free or low cost treatment to eligible owners in need.
- We will make an individual and informed clinical assessment of every animal and will always act in the best interest of an animal.
- We also advocate timely neutering. We neuter cats from the age of 8-9 weeks and dogs from the age of 12 weeks.

Modern veterinary equipment, training and drugs make timely neutering safe, with younger animals generally recovering much more quickly than the more mature patients. Younger animals wake from anaesthetic often within minutes, and resume normal behaviours like eating and playful behaviour in less than an hour post-surgery.

Seeing all the benefits of neutering first hand on a daily basis has led us to become a leading charity in preventative, timely neutering which is also reflected in our access to free and low-cost neutering for all.

Mayhew is always striving to reduce the numbers of unwanted animals and those in need, be that through practical preventative veterinary care and/or human behaviour change.