



ALTOONA VETERINARY HOSPITAL

SPAY AND NEUTER



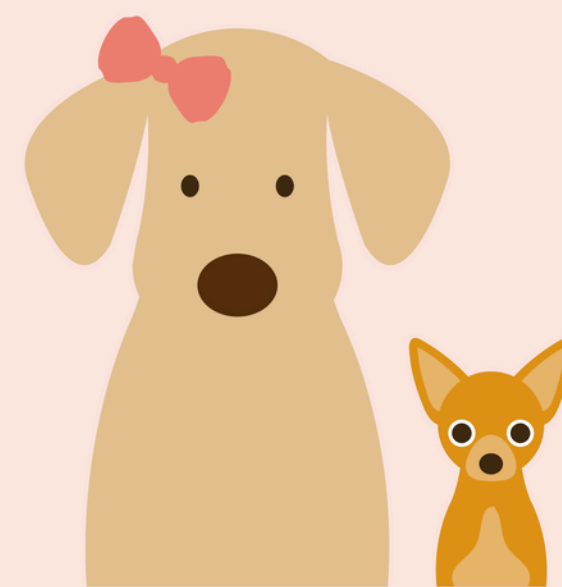
Suggested neutering age guidelines for 40 breeds						
	Males			Females		
	No earlier than 6 months	No earlier than 12 months	No earlier than 24 months	No earlier than 6 months	No earlier than 12 months	No earlier than 24 months
Australian Cattle Dog	X			X		
Australian Shepherd	X			X*		
Beagle		X		X		
Bernese Mountain Dog			X	X		
Border Collie		X			X	
Boston Terrier		X		X		
Boxer			X			X
Bulldog	X			X		
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	X			X		
Chihuahua	X			X		
Cocker Spaniel	X					X
Collie	X				X	
Corgi	X			X		
Dachshund	X				X	
Doberman Pinscher	Leave Intact					X**
English Springer Spaniel	X				X	
German Shepherd			X			X
German Short/Wirehaired Pointer		X			X	
Golden Retriever		X		Leave Intact		
Great Dane	X			X		
Irish Wolfhound			X	X		
Jack Russell Terrier	X			X		
Labrador Retriever	X				X	
Maltese	X			X		
Mastiff			X		X	
Miniature Schnauzer	X			X		
Newfoundland		X			X	
Pomeranian	X			X		
Poodle (Toy)	X			X		
Poodle (Miniature)		X		X		
Poodle (Standard)			X	X		
Pug	X			X*		
Rhodesian Ridgeback	X			X		
Rottweiler		X		X		
Saint Bernard	X			X		
Shetland Sheepdog	X					X**
Shih Tzu	X					X
Siberian Husky	X				X	
West Highland White Terrier	X			X		
Yorkshire Terrier	X			X		

Summary of spaying and neutering guidelines based on findings regarding joint disorders and cancers. * Australian Shepherd and Pug female dogs had no statistically significantly elevated joint disorders or cancers with early neutering. Nonetheless, they are examples of breeds with more joint disorders and/or cancer cases among the early neutered animals, and these may have become significant in a larger dataset (12). ** This recommendation for Doberman Pinscher and Shetland Sheepdog females is based on their elevated risks of UI, not joint disorders or cancers (12).

WHEN SHOULD MY DOG BE NEUTERED OR SPAYED?



MALE



FEMALE

Is your dog a
male or **female**?

How much do you think your dog will
weigh when fully grown?



Less than 45 lbs / 20 kg



More than 45 lbs / 20 kg

Neuter at 6 months of age

Spay before first heat cycle
(5–6 months of age)

Neuter after growth stops
(9–15 months of age)

Spay between 5-15 months
of age

WHY IS THE RECOMMENDED AGE RANGE SO WIDE?

Different breeds stop growing at different ages.

Delaying neutering until after growth stops may
decrease the risk of certain cancers and bone,
ligament and joint problems in some breeds
of male dogs.

In addition to differences in the age of maturity
among breeds, there are **competing risks**
depending on your female dog's breed and lifestyle.

WHAT ARE THE COMPETING RISKS?

Spay before first
heat cycle
(5–6 months of age)

↓ risk of breast
cancer

Prevents unwanted
litters

Spay after growth stops,
but likely after first heat
cycle (5–15 months of age)

↑ risk of breast cancer

↓ risk of certain other
cancers and bone, ligament
and joint problems

May ↓ risk of urinary
incontinence

Talk to your veterinary team about how this evolving
information can be applied to your dog as an individual.

These recommendations are based on the **2019 AAHA Canine Life Stage Guidelines**.
For more information, visit aaha.org/caninelifestage.

Surgery Day and Recovery

The Procedure

When your pet is admitted for surgery, a pre-surgical exam will be performed. Pre-operative blood work is required to ensure we are using the safest anesthesia protocol possible for your pet. If everything is normal, your pet will be anesthetized. An intravenous catheter is placed to administer anesthetic drugs and to provide fluid therapy during the surgery. An endotracheal tube is placed to allow for the delivery of oxygen and gas anesthetic. A surgical technician monitors blood pressure, oxygen level and other vitals closely throughout the procedure.



After Surgery

When you come to pick up your pet later that same day, a surgical technician will discuss all home care instructions with you and answer any questions you may have. Restricted activity is the primary post-operative care you will need to provide. Your pet will also go home with pain medication and an e-collar to prevent them from licking their incision. The collar will need to stay on your pet for 14 days while they heal to prevent re-opening the incision and infection.



We will check in on your pet the following day to see how they are recovering from their surgery. If you have any questions or concerns before then, please feel free to contact us.

The 5 W's of Microchipping

The Who, What, When, Where and Why

Who

Most commonly cats and dogs get microchipped.



What

A microchip is a tiny device about the size of a grain of rice that sits beneath your pet's skin between the shoulder blades.

It provides your pet with permanent identification (like a SSN!), so they have the best chance of returning home.



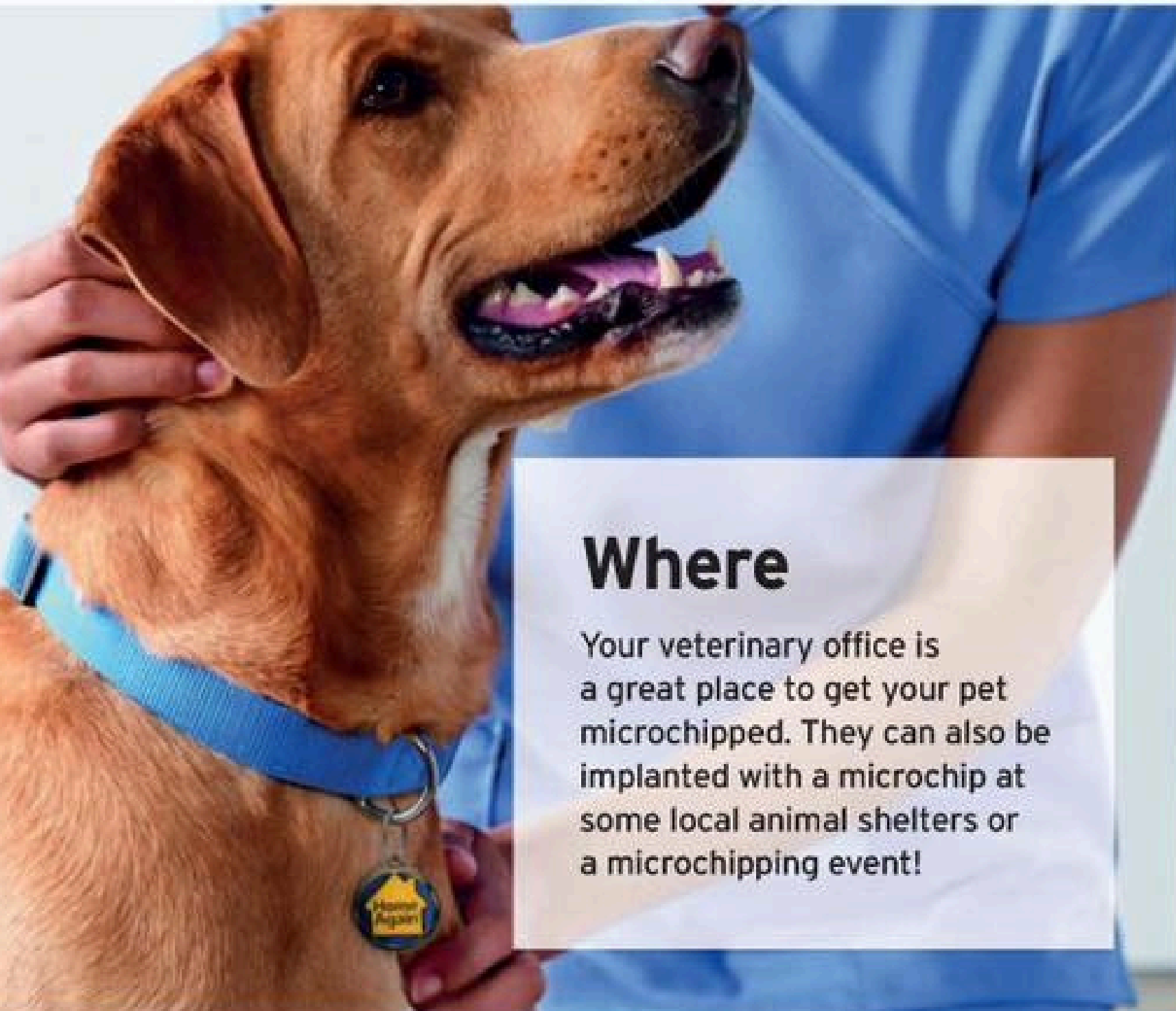
When

Pets can be microchipped at any time! Usually, a pet adopted from a shelter will come microchipped. There should be literature included in your adoption paperwork that has the microchip number. Otherwise, pet owners commonly get their pets microchipped at the time of vaccination, spaying, or neutering.



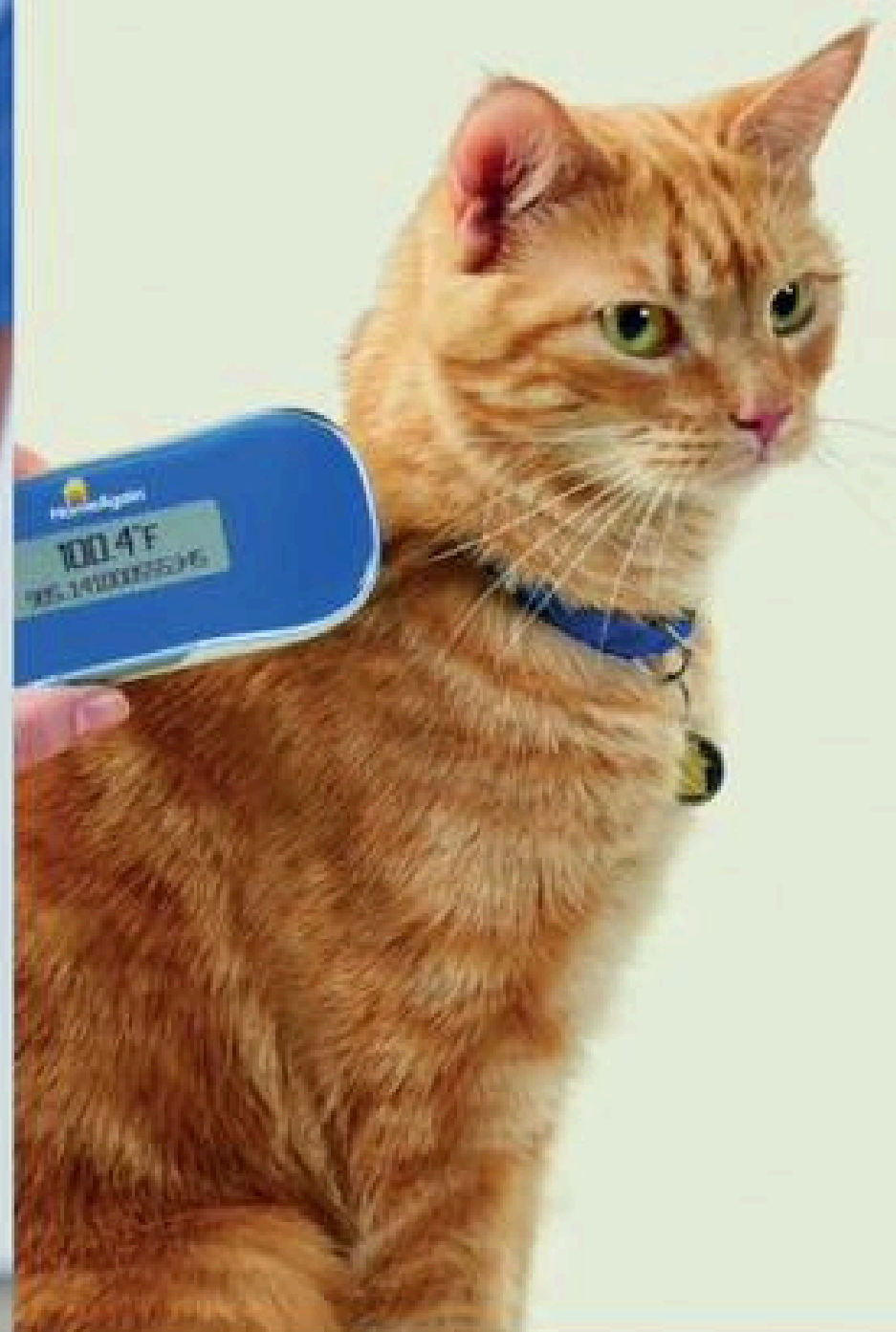
Where

Your veterinary office is a great place to get your pet microchipped. They can also be implanted with a microchip at some local animal shelters or a microchipping event!



Why

A microchip provides permanent ID that cannot fall off, be removed, or become difficult to read so you have the best chance of being reunited if they were to go missing. Just remember you must register and keep your pet's microchip information up-to-date with current contact information!



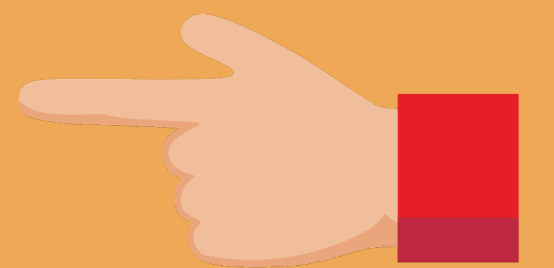
PRE-SCREENING RADIOGRAPH FOR HIP DYSPLASIA

The diagnosis of canine hip dysplasia is typically made by combining: clinical signs of arthritis and pain, a complete physical exam, and radiographs (x-rays). To get the correct presentation and ensure that the muscles are relaxed, the OFA recommends that the dog be anesthetized for the radiographs. These radiographs evaluate the hip joints for congruity, subluxation, the condition of the socket, and the size, shape, and architecture of the femoral head and femoral neck.



ALL dogs are susceptible to hip dysplasia, regardless of their breed or size!

Early detection is the best defense and provides more treatment options!



When you drop off your pet for his/her surgical procedure, you will be given the option to have your pet(s) hips x-rayed.



Severe Hip Dysplasia



Excellent Hips