

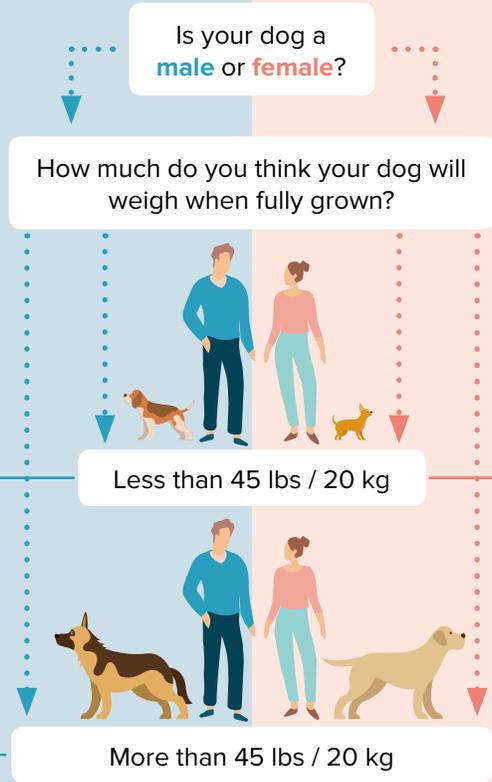
# WHEN SHOULD MY DOG BE NEUTERED OR SPAYED?



**MALE**



**FEMALE**



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.

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

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.

## WHAT ARE THE COMPETING RISKS?

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

Spay after growth stops, but likely after first heat cycle (9-15 months of age)

- ↓ risk of breast cancer
- Prevents unwanted litters

- ↑ 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.