

Spaying/Neutering

When a male is little and you lift him up with a hand under the belly his plumbing is right there in the middle so you will probably be washing your hands whereas with a girl you may or may not. Before this last year I would have had a hard time commenting on which sex is best. We only had experience with studs and one neutered little male poodle.

Since then we have kept some male poodle pups. I just love our boys. They are as loving and affectionate as any of our girls. I am in love with every one of them. I think it's just more of a personal preference.

If you purchase a M there is some suggesting that the optimal time for neutering is 5-8 months. (At about 7 months puberty occurs. Before the 4 months there may be some disadvantages such as not getting the urinary tract to develop).

With spaying females, early spaying may be linked to some incidences of urinary incontinence. Puberty occurs around 7 to 10 months. There may be a slight advantage in spaying before the first heat in terms of reduced breast cancer risk in later life. In Europe, their protocol is to wait for the first heat cycle. However, the owner then has to be extremely careful about an unwanted pregnancy.

We recommend that you discuss your neuter/spay timing issue with your veterinarian. If you want to research the current protocol at PubMed Go to <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/> Type in "Neuter Optimal Timing in Dogs" to see what are the updated scientific research results on the timing issue. (Neuter is often used as a gender-free keyword.)