

## Spaying and Neutering

If you do not intend to breed your Staffy then it's a good idea to have them neutered. There are lots of benefits to this for the dog, the owner and their families.

Some people believe that it is best for their bitch to have one litter. Having a litter does not benefit the dog and puts them at risk of complications and death. The risks are even higher if the bitch is less than 2 years old.

Some owners believe that it is unfair to neuter their male – but often a neutered male is happier and more contented and makes a better pet!

### **The benefits of spaying/neutering include:**

**Less Mess** – An un-spayed bitch will come into season every six months. She will bleed for a week or two, onto carpets and furniture. Male dogs will be very interested in her for up to a month. She may also wee in the house at this time, due to hormones. Trying to stop an interested male from mounting your female can be difficult and risky. An un-neutered male may well pee in the house, 'marking his territory' and may hump furniture and people. These behaviours can be really difficult to deal with if you have children.

**Better Behaviour** – An un-neutered bitch may have phantom pregnancies; she may start to treat toys, socks etc as if they were pups and will guard these against anything that she feels threatens them. She may become moody and seem ill.

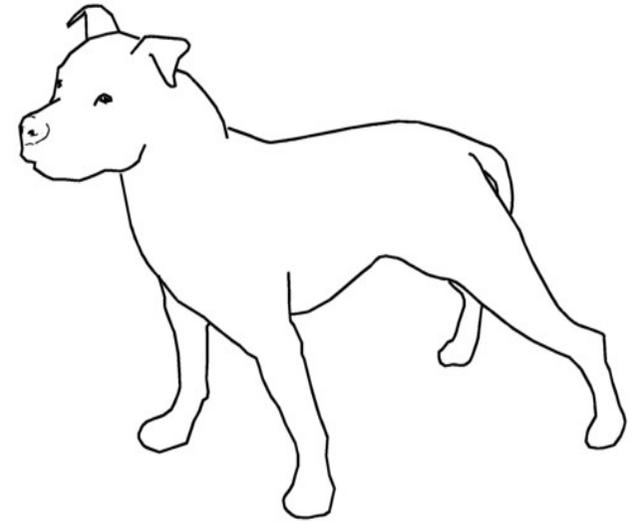
An un-neutered male can become very frustrated. A male dog can smell a bitch in season from six miles away and he may become anxious, grumpy, go off his food, or try to escape - sometimes by scratching through closed doors, climbing fences or digging under them. Males who go off looking for a bitch often wander for miles and cause road traffic accidents for which the owner can be held liable. It is an offence for your dog to be out of control in a public area. Neutering makes him less likely to stray.

**Better Health** – Bitches who are spayed are at far less risk of getting mammary tumours (breast cancer) and a fatal infection of the womb called pyometra. This can develop very quickly and is fatal if not treated by a vet soon enough. For dogs the risk of testicular cancer and prostate problems are also reduced. Because neutered dogs are healthier, some pet insurance companies offer lower prices too!

**Many people find that their dogs are calmer and more relaxed after being spayed or neutered, which again, can be especially important around children.** If you decide to spay or neuter there is often help available with the cost of this. It is a straightforward operation that vets carry out every day, which can make dog ownership much safer, easier and happier!

For more information visit our website – [www.sbtinfo.weebly.com](http://www.sbtinfo.weebly.com)

# Thinking of breeding your Staffordshire Bull Terrier?



Please take a copy of this leaflet

[www.sbtinfo.weebly.com](http://www.sbtinfo.weebly.com)

## To breed or not to breed?

Staffies are lovely dogs and if you own one it can be tempting to have a litter of pups. However, it's important to be aware that as with human pregnancies, dogs can suffer from complications - and **vet bills** can be high.

The Staffy has a wide head, and it is not unusual for the pups to be unable to be born naturally. When this happens there is a risk of death to both mum and pups and urgent vet treatment is essential.

**Caesarian sections** are sometimes needed and these can be very costly. Even if you have pet insurance or are registered with the PDSA they will not normally pay for any treatment needed due to breeding. Failure to provide vet treatment for a suffering dog is also an offence which owners can be prosecuted for.

Dogs can carry illnesses – these may not show up in the parents who may appear to be fit and well. The only way to tell if the pups will be affected is by having blood tests done.

Before breeding, Staffies should be checked by a vet. **An eye test and DNA tests for two diseases (HC N one and L2-HGA) should be carried out.**

Breeders can be held liable for the vets bills of puppies if they sell them without proper checks. Throughout the pregnancy the bitch will need extra food and must be wormed with a suitable wormer from the vet, as must the pups. They should have their first vaccinations before going to their new homes. **Pups should be with their mum and litter-mates until they are eight weeks old.**

## Pups

Buyers of Staffy pups should be aware that it is important to make sure the parents have been tested for genetic disorders, and that the puppies have been wormed and vaccinated. When buyers visit to look at a litter, they should see the pups with their mum, and ensure she is in good condition, friendly and happy.

Anyone who is concerned about the welfare of the mother or the pups should **not buy them** – and instead, should contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999

## Selling Pups

Some people decide to breed their Staffy because they have seen pups advertised for large sums of money. However, people who are paying £100 plus for a pup will expect it to be from health tested stock with a good pedigree and fully vaccinated.

Many people find they can't sell the pups. Sometimes they can't even give them away.

This can become very stressful, as growing pups make a lot of mess and noise and become expensive to feed.

At the moment, there are more Staffy pups being bred than there are buyers for. If you do manage to sell any of the pups, be aware that **all income from selling puppies is taxable**, and may affect your **entitlement to benefits**.

Anyone who is selling pups should **by law** declare this to the Inland Revenue (and Social Security if you are in receipt of benefits).

**Lots of responsible Staffordshire owners decide not to breed; because of the expense, the risk to the health and life of your bitch and also because there are just too many Staffies....**

Staffies are brilliant dogs, friendly, happy and full of beans. However, they are also the breed most likely to end up unwanted.

They are the breed that is hardest to find new homes for, and the breed most likely to be put to sleep as a result.

**Last year over 9000 dogs were put to sleep** just because they were unwanted (not because they were ill), **most of them were Staffies, or Staffy crosses.**

Most people who breed their dog never expect that **their** pups will end up on canine death row but this is the fate of many - it could be what happens to your dog's pups.

**25 dogs will be put to sleep today.** Most of them will be Staffies. Many will be healthy, lovable dogs with nice temperaments.

Lots of people who know this, and who really care about Staffies decide not to breed them – because they don't want to add to this problem.

The reality is that **if fewer people bred their dogs there would be no need for a dog death row.**

The equivalent of **28 litters of puppies a week are put to sleep**; all of them probably bred by people who thought their pups would have loving homes for life.