



Ways to control breeding in dogs and cats



Surgical desexing

Who can give it?

Vets only

How long does it last?

Permanent - lasts as long as the animal lives

What animals?

Dogs and cats

Females and males

Pregnant or not

Young, adult and old



Cost per procedure/dose

Depends on what the vet charges. Per animal desexed, usually works out around \$250



Cost per animal (over lifetime)

Depends on what the vet charges. Per animal desexed, usually works out around \$250 as a one-off cost



Good things

- It only needs to be done once and is 100% effective at stopping breeding
- Desexed animals live longer and have stronger immune systems
- Surgical desexing removes the hormones that cause humbug in pets, so females never come on heat again, and pets are calmer, roam less and are less cheeky
- Desexed animals are less likely to get some types of cancer
- Desexed animals put on weight, so they are cheaper to feed
- Surgical desexing is good value for money if the animals live a long time



Bad things

- Needs a vet in the community to do the operation It takes a fair bit of the vet's and the EHP's time
 - Each operation usually takes between 20 and 40 minutes, plus the time spent talking to the owners, catching and transporting the animal, and waiting for the animal to wake up before it is taken home
- It can be a big investment of time (and cost) if the animals aren't living for very long after they are desexed
 - It is a good idea to worm and vaccinate animals that are being desexed, but this does cost the program even more money
- Like any surgery, there is a very small risk that the animal might die from the surgery

Proligestone injection (e.g. Covinan®)

Who can give it?

Vet or trained & authorised Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs)

How long does it last?

Temporary - lasts around 3-6months

What animals?

Dogs and cats

Registered for females. Off-label use for males.

Not recommended for pregnant animals
Can cause long term fertility issues if given to animals younger than 6 months of age



Cost per procedure/dose

Depends on the size of the dog, but an average dog single dose around \$20



Cost per animal (over 5 years)

For an average sized dog, if given every 3 months over 5 years, around \$400.
More if the animal lives longer



Good things

- Can be done by a trained and authorised EHP (under the vet's prescription)
- Doesn't involve an operation, is quick to give, and can be given at the animal's house
- Cheap in the short term (if animals are only living only about 2 years)
- Good to use when owners are not sure yet if they want their animal desexed, or to let the animal get old enough to breed safely
- Can be used on its own to stop animals breeding, or in combination with surgical desexing (to stop animals breeding before the next vet visit)



Bad things

- One needle only lasts 3months
- The needle can sting, so animal might not like the vet or EHP
 - Sometimes, animals might need to be sedated before they are given Covinan®
- The bottle can't get too hot, otherwise the drug might not work
- It can be hard to find every female dog or cat every 3 months, and if animals miss a needle, they will breed again
- It does not work in about 3% of dogs - this means that for every 100 females needed, 3 will still be able to breed
- It can cause problems if it is given to animals that are pregnant
- If used long term, problems like infected uteruses and breast cancer can be more common

Deslorin implant (e.g. Suprelorin®)

Who can give it?

Vet or trained & authorised Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs)

How long does it last?

Temporary - lasts 6 or 12 months

What animals?

Registered for dogs only. Off-label use for cats. Registered for use in males. Off-label use in females.
More information needed to know if it is safe in pregnant animals
Can be given to males at any age. In females (off-label), better if given before her first heat



Cost per procedure/dose

6 month implant: around \$80
12 month implant: around \$140



Cost per animal (over 5 years)

If given every 12 months over 5 years: around \$700
More if the animal lives longer



Good things

- Can be done by a trained and authorised EHP (under the vet's prescription)
- Doesn't involve an operation, is quick to give, and can be given at the animal's house
- Lasts longer than Covinan® (up to 18 months in some dogs)
- Good to use when owners are not sure yet if they want their animal desexed, or to let the animal get old enough to breed safely
- Can be used on its own to stop animals breeding, or in combination with surgical desexing (to stop animals breeding before the next vet visit)



Bad things

- Over 12 months, Suprelorin® costs more than Covinan®
- The needle is quite big – animals can yelp and be hard to hold when the needle goes in.
 - Sometimes, animals might need to be sedated before they are given Suprelorin®
- When given to female animals that are older than 5 months, it can cause them to come onto heat. During this heat they can get pregnant even though they have had the implant
- It can be hard to find all the animals that are due for an implant; if animals get missed, they can breed
- The implant needs to be kept in the fridge until it ready to be used
- It can cause uterus problems in female animals



Ways to control breeding in dogs and cats



Surgical desexing

Who can give it?

Vets only

How long does it last?

Permanent - lasts as long as the animal lives

What animals?

Dogs and cats

Females and males

Pregnant or not

Young, adult and old



Cost per procedure/dose

Depends on what the vet charges. Per animal desexed, usually works out around \$250



Cost per animal (over lifetime)

Depends on what the vet charges. Per animal desexed, usually works out around \$250 as a one-off cost



Good things

- It only needs to be done once and is 100% effective at stopping breeding
- Desexed animals live longer and have stronger immune systems
- Surgical desexing removes the hormones that cause humbug in pets, so females never come on heat again, and pets are calmer, roam less and are less cheeky
- Desexed animals are less likely to get some types of cancer
- Desexed animals put on weight, so they are cheaper to feed
- Surgical desexing is good value for money if the animals live a long time



Bad things

- Needs a vet in the community to do the operation It takes a fair bit of the vet's and the EHP's time
 - Each operation usually takes between 20 and 40 minutes, plus the time spent talking to the owners, catching and transporting the animal, and waiting for the animal to wake up before it is taken home
- It can be a big investment of time (and cost) if the animals aren't living for very long after they are desexed
 - It is a good idea to worm and vaccinate animals that are being desexed, but this does cost the program even more money
- Like any surgery, there is a very small risk that the animal might die from the surgery

Proligestone injection (e.g. Covinan®)

Who can give it?

Vet or trained & authorised Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs)

How long does it last?

Temporary - lasts around 3-6months

What animals?

Dogs and cats

Registered for females. Off-label use for males.

Not recommended for pregnant animals
Can cause long term fertility issues if given to animals younger than 6 months of age



Cost per procedure/dose

Depends on the size of the dog, but an average dog single dose around \$20



Cost per animal (over 5 years)

For an average sized dog, if given every 3 months over 5 years, around \$400.
More if the animal lives longer



Good things

- Can be done by a trained and authorised EHP (under the vet's prescription)
- Doesn't involve an operation, is quick to give, and can be given at the animal's house
- Cheap in the short term (if animals are only living only about 2 years)
- Good to use when owners are not sure yet if they want their animal desexed, or to let the animal get old enough to breed safely
- Can be used on its own to stop animals breeding, or in combination with surgical desexing (to stop animals breeding before the next vet visit)



Bad things

- One needle only lasts 3months
- The needle can sting, so animal might not like the vet or EHP
 - Sometimes, animals might need to be sedated before they are given Covinan®
- The bottle can't get too hot, otherwise the drug might not work
- It can be hard to find every female dog or cat every 3 months, and if animals miss a needle, they will breed again
- It does not work in about 3% of dogs - this means that for every 100 females needed, 3 will still be able to breed
- It can cause problems if it is given to animals that are pregnant
- If used long term, problems like infected uteruses and breast cancer can be more common

Deslorin implant (e.g. Suprelorin®)

Who can give it?

Vet or trained & authorised Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs)

How long does it last?

Temporary - lasts 6 or 12 months

What animals?

Registered for dogs only. Off-label use for cats. Registered for use in males. Off-label use in females.
More information needed to know if it is safe in pregnant animals
Can be given to males at any age. In females (off-label), better if given before her first heat



Cost per procedure/dose

6 month implant: around \$80
12 month implant: around \$140



Cost per animal (over 5 years)

If given every 12 months over 5 years: around \$700
More if the animal lives longer



Good things

- Can be done by a trained and authorised EHP (under the vet's prescription)
- Doesn't involve an operation, is quick to give, and can be given at the animal's house
- Lasts longer than Covinan® (up to 18 months in some dogs)
- Good to use when owners are not sure yet if they want their animal desexed, or to let the animal get old enough to breed safely
- Can be used on its own to stop animals breeding, or in combination with surgical desexing (to stop animals breeding before the next vet visit)



Bad things

- Over 12 months, Suprelorin® costs more than Covinan®
- The needle is quite big – animals can yelp and be hard to hold when the needle goes in.
 - Sometimes, animals might need to be sedated before they are given Suprelorin®
- When given to female animals that are older than 5 months, it can cause them to come onto heat. During this heat they can get pregnant even though they have had the implant
- It can be hard to find all the animals that are due for an implant; if animals get missed, they can breed
- The implant needs to be kept in the fridge until it ready to be used
- It can cause uterus problems in female animals