

Suprelorin

Chemical Castration

What is Suprelorin?

Suprelorin is an implant used to induce temporary infertility in entire male dogs. We may also refer to this as 'chemical castration'. The implant will lower your dog's testosterone levels which then stops sperm production. This mimics the effect we achieve with surgical castration.

Why we might recommend the Suprelorin implant?

Castration is generally recommended for most dogs due to the health benefits. These include reducing/eliminating the risk of testicular cancer, prostatic enlargement and perineal hernias. However, testosterone has a role of maintaining self-confidence in dogs. Reducing testosterone levels in some nervous or anxious male dogs may therefore significantly worsen their behaviour and anxiety. Our main concern is that worsening behaviour may mean progression to nervous aggression when the testosterone is suppressed. For these patients, we would rather forego the health benefits of castration than create a permanently nervous aggressive dog.

Sometimes it is not clear what effect castration will have on a patient's behaviour. Suprelorin allows us to trial the effects of reduced testosterone on a temporary basis. If your dog shows unwanted or worsening behaviour after having the implant, we can allow it to wear off and your dog's testosterone levels should then return to normal levels. In dogs that have tolerated the implant without issue we could then choose to surgically castrate them. It should be noted that in some extremely nervous or already nervous aggressive patients, we may not recommend the Suprelorin implant at all.

How is Suprelorin implanted?

In the vast majority of dogs, the implant can be placed conscious. It is placed under the skin at the scruff of the neck, similar to a microchip.

How old must my dog be for the implant?

Your dog must be healthy and sexually mature to have the implant, for most dogs this is from six to 12 months old.

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When will the implant work?

Infertility is achieved from 6 weeks after implantation. Your dog should therefore be kept away from female dogs in heat for the first 6 weeks after implantation. Sexual interest and behaviours can actually increase slightly during this time.

How long will the implant work for?

This depends on the size of your dog:

- The implant will last for at least 6 months for dogs weighing between 10 and 40kg.
- For smaller dogs (<10kg) testosterone may be reduced for more than 12 months.
- For larger dogs (>40kg) there is limited data but of that available the duration of testosterone reduction appeared similar to dogs in the 10-40kg weight category.

There is a Suprelorin implant which will last for 12 months but due to the nature of why we trial this product it is rarely indicated for the first application i.e should your dog be worse with the implant you would have to wait 12 months for the implant to wear off. It is important to be aware that in smaller patients <10kg the effects and time for the standard implant to wear off can be prolonged.

Should I expect any side effects?

- Moderate swelling of the implant site may be observed for 14 days.
- Scabbing or irritation can occur over the implant site and can last for up to 6 months.
- In <0.01% cases there may be an increase in sexual interest, increased testicular size and testicular pain just after implantation. These signs should resolve without treatment. Transient aggression was also reported in <0.01% cases.
- During the treatment period it is common to see a significant decrease in testicular size
- During the treatment period, rare (0.01 to < 0.1%) clinical effects have been reported including coat changes and urinary incontinence.
- Very rarely (<0.01% of cases) epileptic seizures have been observed.

Should I use this if I want to breed from my dog?

The ability of dogs to sire offspring once the implant has run out has not been investigated.

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