

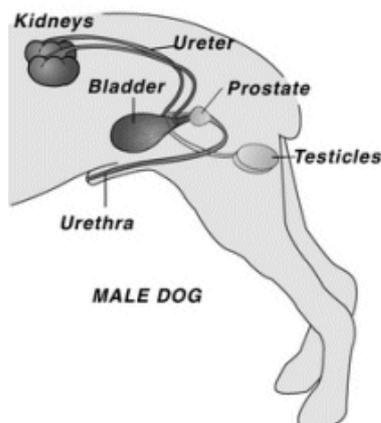
Canine Prostate Awareness Month

Many of you are aware of the month of 'Movember' which sees many men across the country sporting interesting facial hair all in support of Prostate Cancer UK. Just like men, male dogs have prostates too which can become diseased. November is the National Prostate Awareness Month (NPAM) for our canine companions. Below is some useful information about prostate diseases and clinical signs.

Anatomy:

The prostate is a secretory gland that surrounds the urethra (tube connecting the bladder to the outside). The prostate can change size becoming larger with maturity and smaller once castrated at any age. The function of the prostate is to provide an optimal environment for sperm survival and motility.

Examination of the prostate by a vet involves performing a rectal examination by which the organ can be assessed for size, shape and any discomfort. For certain diseases a blood sample can be taken.



Diseases of the prostate:

Prostate enlargement can be caused by:

- Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH) a condition which can affect 80% of entire male dogs > 5 years old.
- Prostatitis/ Prostatic abscess
- Prostatic cysts
- Prostatic tumours

One advantage of castration at a young age is to reduce the risk of BPH as it is a testosterone driven phenomenon.

There is evidence recently that castrated dogs have a higher risk of developing prostate tumours compared with entire males.

However this is only one factor that plays a role in tumour development and other factors i.e. age/ genetics and breed also have an impact.



Clinical signs of Prostate disease:

- Straining to pass faeces (due to size of prostate)
- Straining to pass urine/ no passage of urine
- Blood present in urine
- Stiff hind limb movement.

If you are concerned at all about your dog showing any of the above signs please contact the surgery to make an appointment.

