



CRYPTORCHID DOGS

Cryptorchidism refers to one or both testes (testicles) that are not descended into the scrotal sac. The “missing” testis can be either in the abdominal cavity or in the inguinal (groin) area. A male is usually still fertile if only one testis is descended, but infertile if both are – this is presumed because the testicle is not meant to function inside the body where the temperature is high. Desexing is recommended because cryptorchidism is a heritable defect (ie: a cryptorchid male dog is likely to father male puppies that are also cryptorchid, and pass on the defect genetically to their female offspring as well).

By the time a male puppy has developed it’s scrotal sacs, both testes should be in the scrotal position. If the dog does not have both testes descended by 5 months, it is unlikely that they will descend at all. In rare cases, they may not descend until 6-9 months of age.

Retained testes are at a significantly greater risk of developing neoplasms (cancer). In unilateral cryptorchids (having one scrotal and one undescended teste), the scrotal teste also has a higher rate of cancer than in normal males. For these reasons, it is strongly recommended that these dogs are castrated (desexed).