

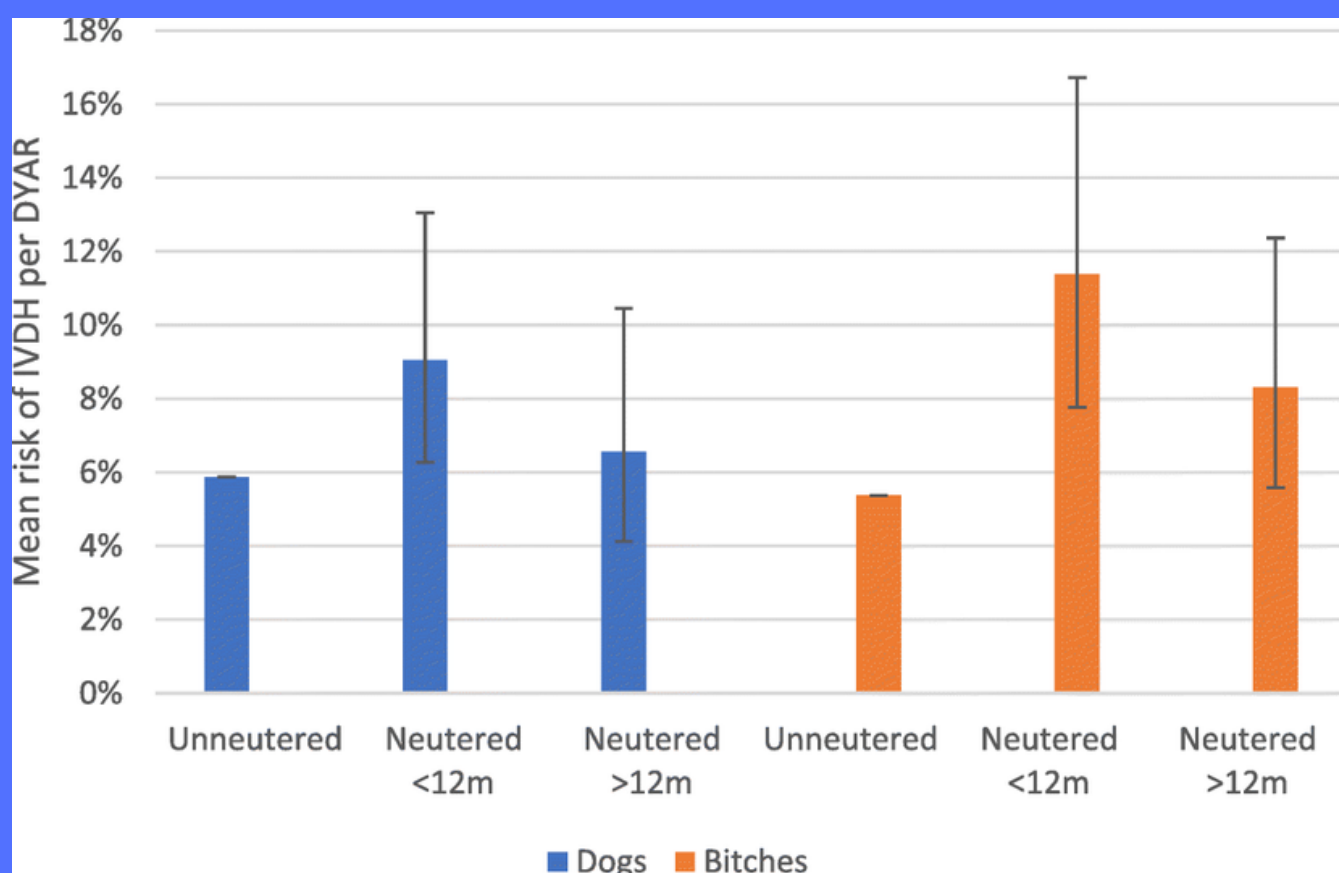
# NEUTER STATUS AS A RISK FACTOR

## FOR DISC HERNIATION IN DACHSHUNDS

DORN & SEATH: CANINE GENETICS & EPIDEMIOLOGY 2018

### A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

For dachshunds that were  $\geq 3$  years and  $< 10$  years old at the time of the survey (1073 individuals) incidence of IVDH was compared between early-neutered ( $< 12$  months), late-neutered ( $> 12$  months) and entire animals of each gender.



Comparative risk of IVDH in dachshunds  $\geq 3$  years and  $< 10$  years old

### CONCLUSIONS



Males

The risk of getting IVDH was higher for males neutered early (before 12 months old) than for entire males.

Males neutered early (before 12 months old) were more likely to get IVDH than were males neutered late (after 12 months old).

Delaying castration until at least 12 months old is expected to reduce the risk of IVDH.



Females

Neutered bitches had a higher risk of experiencing IVDH than entire bitches.

Of all the female dachshunds in the study, the group at highest risk of IVDH were those neutered before 12 months old.

If getting your dachshund bitch spayed\*, consider delaying this until she is at least 12 months old to reduce the expected risk of IVDH.

\* Before considering leaving your dachshund entire, discuss with your vet the pros and cons of neutering.

IVDH is an important consideration for dachshunds as it is common, painful and can be disabling and life-threatening. However, entire females have an increased risk of pyometra and mammary cancer.



IVDD

For more information, visit: [www.dachshund-ivdd.uk](http://www.dachshund-ivdd.uk)