

Neutering

What does neutering mean?

Neutering is the act of removing parts of the sexual organs of an animal in order to prevent them from producing offspring. For male cats this involves castration (removal of the testes) and for female cats, spaying (removal of the ovaries and uterus).

Why should we neuter cats?

- Population control – A female cat is able to produce up to three litters of kittens per year depending on her breed, the time of year, and individual development – this can result in a large number of kittens needing to be cared for!
- Nuisance control – Unneutered male cats are likely to stray over larger areas looking for a mate. They are more prone to fighting with other cats, and may incur injuries from this. Many male cats also produce a pungent spray which they use to mark their territory. Female cats will call during times of the year when they are sexually active, this will encourage entire male cats to the area increasing these issues



- Health issues – Entire female cats can suffer from a condition called a pyometra, an infection of the uterus, and are at an increased risk of developing mammary tumours. Due to entire male cats' roaming behaviours and tendency to fight, they can suffer from associated injuries, and abscesses. They are at a much higher risk of contracting infectious diseases such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus and Feline Leukaemia Virus. Roaming also comes with an increased risk of being involved in a road traffic collision for cats
- Welfare concerns – Unwanted kittens may not be well cared for and are at risk of a number of infectious diseases. Caring for a litter of kittens can become expensive and time consuming. Many people are unable to provide the commitment they require and may also struggle to find new homes for them



How is my cat neutered?

Neutering cats is a routine surgical procedure which involves the use of general anaesthetic. They will need to be admitted into the hospital as a day patient.

- The night before the surgery, you will usually need to starve your pet from midnight – this includes treats! They can, however, still have water
- On the morning of the procedure you will need to bring your cat to the practice where a Registered Veterinary Nurse will admit your pet and check their vital signs
- They will be settled into a kennel for the day
- To prepare your pet for their surgery they will receive a pre-medication which contains pain relief and sedation to help them relax
- Once this has taken effect, they will be anaesthetised and have the surgical site clipped and cleaned
- Your cat will then be moved into a sterile theatre for their surgery
- When it is time for them to recover they will be settled back into their kennel and monitored closely until they are up and about again
- As soon as your pet is recovered from the anaesthetic, you will receive a phone call to let you know how your pet is and when they should be ready to go home

When is the best time to neuter my cat?

Neutering for both male and female cats is routinely undertaken between the ages of four and six months but, it is possible to neuter older cats too.



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If you are worried about your cat's health, or want to discuss treatment options, give us a call to make an appointment.