



Cat Neutering Information



We recommend that all cats, that are not to be used for breeding should be neutered. Thousands of unwanted cats have to be put to sleep every year because there are too many unwanted animals and not enough homes for them. You can help by getting your cat neutered.

MALES

WE RECOMMEND THAT YOUR MALE CAT IS CASTRATED AROUND SIX MONTHS OF AGE

Entire male cats:

- Are very prone to wandering great distances to find a mate which put them at greater risk of road traffic accidents.
- Can be very territorial which can be expressed by scent marking. Having a cat scent mark your property/furniture/clothes is very unpleasant and best avoided.
- Can be prone to fighting with any competitor cats in the area. Cats can create nasty wounds with their teeth and claws, often resulting in nasty wounds or abscesses which then require veterinary attention. Remember that cats can carry a variety of diseases, especially viruses which are spread in saliva and blood, for example, feline leukaemia or FIV (cat AIDS). These can be transmitted in fighting.

The health benefits:

- Removes the risk of testicular tumours
- Removes the risk of stress and frustration if they are unable to find a mate

What happens on the day of the op?

He is admitted in the morning and discharged in the afternoon of the same day.

Once admitted he will be given an anesthetic and the procedure will be carried out. There are no stitches required. The risks associated are minimal however with there is always a risk with anesthetic. There is a tiny risk of bleeding problems and very rarely, there can be a wound problem afterwards.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED YOUR PET AFTER 11PM THE NIGHT BEFORE THEIR OP AND LIFT THEIR WATER BOWL IN THE MORNING.

FEMALES

WE RECOMMEND THAT YOUR FEMALE CAT IS NEUTERED AROUND SIX MONTHS OF AGE

Female cats:

- When in season a female cat usually has a persistent loud, yowling behaviour known as calling. This can last for a few days and is a frequent cause of people ringing the emergency service, thinking their cat is in severe pain.
- The female cat will often wander away in search of a mate putting herself at risk of injury and road traffic accidents.
- Will attract unwanted, strong smelling gentleman callers.

The health benefits:

- Removes the risk of infection in the womb
- Removes the risk of complications during kitting
- Reduces the risk of her developing mammary tumours

What happens on the day of the op?

She is admitted in the morning and discharged in the afternoon of the same day.

Once admitted she will be given an aesthetic and her ovaries and womb are removed through an incision on her left side. She will have stitches and if these are not dissolvable will need to be removed 10 days after the op. She will have a small shaved area on her side or underneath – this hair will grow back in a few weeks. The risks associated are minimal however with there is always a risk with aesthetic. There is a tiny risk of bleeding problems and very rarely, there can be a wound problem afterwards, especially if the patient isn't impressed with her stitches and interrupts the healing process.

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What happens after the surgery?

Cats are very resilient and stoical – far more so than humans – and usually recover very quickly from the operation. Your vet will advise on the best care for your cat he or she recovers. Your cat will require much less food in the long term after neutering, as his or her body has less work to do, so you will probably need to monitor your cat's weight and reduce the amount of food provided to prevent your cat from becoming too fat.

Some people worry that their cat's personality will change. This isn't true however you might see a fall in certain behaviour: roaming, mounting, fighting and urine spraying.

Your cat will automatically be put onto a reminder system for a FREE weight check with one of our nurses two months after the op.

In some cases, especially where owners are in financial hardship, the Cats Protection may be able to help with neutering costs.

Points to consider:

- Cats can start breeding from just four months of age
- Kittens can be safely neutered before six months of age
- Cats will readily breed with their brothers, sisters and parents
- It is not beneficial for a cat to have a season or 'just one litter' before being spayed
- The length of pregnancy in cats is just nine weeks and a female cat can often come into season again just six weeks after giving birth
- A cat can quite easily have up to three litters a year with five or six kittens in each. That adds up to 18 caring homes for Cats Protection to find each year, just for one cat's kittens! This level of breeding is very draining and can be harmful for the mother cat
- One unneutered female cat can be responsible for 20,000 descendants in just five years – unneutered cats are very good at finding each other and unplanned, unwanted pregnancies are all too common
- Neutered cats do not 'miss' their organs or opportunities to reproduce or rear a litter – they are not people!
- Neutering even if a queen is in season, pregnant or lactating can be performed



