



## Cat Neutering Information



We recommend that all cats that are not to be used for breeding and should be neutered. In addition to preventing unplanned pregnancies there are many other potential benefits associated with neutering.

## **MALES**

### **WE RECOMMEND THAT YOUR MALE CAT IS CASTRATED BETWEEN 5-6 MONTHS OF AGE.**

In certain circumstances we may neuter slightly earlier than this.

Entire male cats:

- Often cover large distances looking for a mate. Sadly, this means that they can be at greater risk of being involved in road traffic accidents.
- May be very territorial which can be expressed by scent marking. Having a cat scent mark your property/furniture/clothes is not pleasant and definitely best avoided!
- Often fight over territory with any competitor cats in the area. Cats can cause a lot of damage with their teeth and claws, often resulting in nasty wounds or abscesses which may require veterinary attention. Several serious viral diseases, including Feline Leukaemia Virus and FIV (an immunodeficiency virus similar to HIV in humans), can be transmitted during fighting or sexual contact.

**In addition to preventing unwanted pregnancies, neutering your male cat prevents scent marking, reduces fighting behaviour and removes the risk of testicular tumour development.**

### **What happens on the day of the op?**

Your male cat will be admitted first thing in the morning and discharged again in the afternoon of the same day.

Once admitted he will have a pre-op examination (including pre-anaesthetic bloods if opted for). If all is ok he will then be given a general anaesthetic and the procedure will be carried out. He will have both his testicles removed through scrotal incisions. His castration wounds have no stitches.

The risks associated with castration in a young, healthy male are very low. As with any anaesthetic procedure there is always a very small risk associated with the anaesthetic itself. This is something we work hard on to minimize. There is a potential risk of bleeding and very rarely, there can be complications with wound healing.

**PLEASE DO NOT FEED YOUR PET AFTER 11PM THE NIGHT BEFORE THEIR OPERATION AND LIFT THEIR WATER BOWL WHEN YOU GET UP ON THE MORNING OF THEIR PROCEDURE.**

## **FEMALES**

### **WE RECOMMEND THAT YOUR FEMALE CAT IS NEUTERED BETWEEN 5-6 MONTHS OF AGE.**

In certain circumstances we may neuter slightly earlier than this.

Entire female cats:

- When in season a female cat usually has a persistent loud, yowling behaviour known as calling. This can last for several days and is a frequent cause of owner concern with people worried that their cat is in severe pain.
- An entire female cat will often wander from home in search of a mate putting herself at increased risk of injury or accident.
- Will attract unwanted, strong smelling gentleman callers!

**In addition to preventing unwanted pregnancies or complications during kitting, neutering your female cat removes her risk of pyometra (womb infection) and reduces the risk of her developing mammary tumours.**

### **What happens on the day of the op?**

Your female cat will be admitted first thing in the morning and discharged again in the afternoon of the same day.

Once admitted she will have a pre-op examination (including pre-anaesthetic bloods if opted for). If all is ok she will then be given a general anaesthetic and the procedure will be carried out. Her ovaries and womb are removed through an incision on her left side. She will have stitches but these are usually buried within the skin and do not need to be removed. She will have a small shaved area on her side – this hair will grow back in a few weeks.

The risks associated with spaying in a young, healthy female are very low. As with any anaesthetic procedure there is always a very small risk associated with the anaesthetic itself. This is something we work hard on to minimize. There is a potential risk of bleeding and very rarely, there can be complications with wound healing.

**PLEASE DO NOT FEED YOUR PET AFTER 11PM THE NIGHT BEFORE THEIR OPERATION AND LIFT THEIR WATER BOWL WHEN YOU GET UP IN THE MORNING OF THEIR PROCEDURE.**

## What happens after the surgery?

**Cats usually recover very quickly from their operation. Your vet/nurse will advise on the best care for your cat as he or she recovers. Your cat will require less food in the long term after neutering. It is very important to monitor your cat's weight and reduce the amount of food provided to prevent your cat from gaining excessive weight.**

Some people worry that their cat's personality will change. This isn't true however you might see a reduction in certain behaviours: 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 three months after their operation.

### Points to consider:

- Cats can start breeding from as early as four months of age in some cases.
- Kittens can be safely neutered before five 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 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.
- Neutering can be performed even if a queen is in season, pregnant or finishing lactating.
- Many owners opt to microchip their cats whilst under anaesthetic. It's an ideal opportunity to implant the microchip whilst your cat is asleep!

