

## Cat Spey (Ovariohysterectomy) – What you need to know

### *The Day Before*

- Please do not feed your cat after 10pm the night before the procedure. They can have water available overnight but just take it up in the morning
- Please do not let your cat out overnight.
- If your cat is on a particular diet, please bring some food along with you
- If your pet is on any long term medication please call to ask whether this should be given as normal the night before/morning of the procedure

### *On the day*

- You will have been given an appointment time for a preoperative examination by the vet, to discuss the procedure and estimated costs.
- The vet will:
  - Weigh your cat
  - Perform a physical examination including checking for signs of pregnancy. They will discuss with you whether there is any chance that your cat may have been caught by a Tom cat.
  - Discuss whether a pre-anaesthetic blood test is indicated to check basic liver and kidney function etc before going under an anaesthetic.
- The vet will go through the consent form with you and will happily discuss any potential complications of the procedure to allow you to give informed consent. Possible complications could include:

| During the procedure   | After the procedure  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bleeding</li><li>○ Unexpected pregnancy</li><li>○ Bladder issues</li><li>○ Unusual anatomy</li><li>○ Anaesthetic reaction/thromboembolisms</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pain/swelling/infection of wound</li><li>○ Suture material reaction</li><li>○ Herniation/wound breakdown</li><li>○ Ovarian remnant</li></ul> |

If you require further explanation of these potential complications or how they could affect your cat please ask your vet.

- After gaining informed consent from you, and a contact telephone number that you are available on all day, the vet will take your cat through to the Prep area.
  - Here they will be transferred into a comfy kennel and their anaesthetic drugs will be prepared. If it is indicated to have a pre-operative blood test, the blood sample will be taken at this point.
  - Routine feline neuters are usually anaesthetised via an injection into their muscle and they are then monitored while they fall asleep – this usually takes between 5 and 10 minutes. Once fully asleep a tube is inserted into their airway so that the airway is protected and they can receive oxygen +/- anaesthetic gases as necessary..
  - Once anaesthetised your cat will be positioned and prepared for surgery by clipping the hair, usually on their left side, and “scrubbing” with an appropriate antimicrobial surgical scrub solution.

- An ovariohysterectomy is performed through an incision through the skin, the layers beneath and the muscle on the left flank. The womb is a Y shape with an ovary at each upper point. Each ovary is located and exposed in turn, the ligaments attaching it are carefully broken down and the large blood vessels that supply it are ligated with suture material. The body of the uterus is then gently pulled out and again ligated with suture material. Once the surgeon is happy that both ovaries and the womb is removed and there is no bleeding, the abdomen is sutured up in three layers – muscle, subcutaneous tissue, skin.
- Your cat is then recovered from the anaesthetic and is monitored throughout recovery. Once up and about they will be offered some lunch.
- A veterinary nurse will call you to let you know how things have gone and confirm the time for picking your cat up.
- At the discharge appointment a veterinary nurse will go through the aftercare instructions with you and explain about post-operative checks.