



Neutering your Cat

Cats become sexually mature between 4-5 months of age. Therefore, we recommend neutering at this age. If it is left much later, female cats often become pregnant and male cats start to scent mark.

Tom cats

Uncastrated male cats are much more likely to be involved in road accidents, as they roam at night, and are also prone to abscesses caused by bites when they get into cat fights. This in turn means they are more likely than castrated cats to contract feline aids or leukaemia (FIV/FelV).

Queens

Unspayed female cats will start to 'call'. Calling behaviour consists of loud and persistent vocalisation (often at windows), rolling about on the floor as in pain, and a keenness to get outside to meet a mate. Calling may go on for up to a week and happen every 2-3 weeks throughout the spring and summer if your cat is not mated. Spaying your cat will also prevent unwanted litters.

Your cat will need a general anaesthetic for neutering. Understandably, owners are sometimes worried by the thought of a general anaesthetic, but the risks are very low and multiple steps are taken to ensure the health and welfare of your cat.

Preparation for the operation starts at home. Your cat needs to be kept inside overnight the night before surgery and have an early supper with food withheld afterwards. It is important that access to water is maintained so that your cat does not become dehydrated before the operation.

Your cat will stay at the surgery for most of the day and go home late afternoon. After a health check in the morning, your pet will have a premedication which will provide pre-operative pain relief and a sedative effect. This will relax your cat before the operation. The general anaesthetic is given and a veterinary nurse will monitor your cat constantly throughout the operation whilst the veterinary surgeon will perform the surgery.

Tom cats have both testes removed through an incision in the scrotum, no stitches are used. Queens have a complete ovariohysterectomy, usually via the flank. Sutures are either placed externally or under the skin. It is important that your cat does not interfere with the incision, therefore a buster collar or pet t-shirt should be used.

Recovery is usually rapid, and most cats feel back to normal within 48 hours of the operation – many a lot quicker. Feeding bland home cooked food such as boiled chicken or boiled white fish is recommended on the evening of the surgery, before normal feeding is resumed the next day.

Cats are much more prone to weight gain after the surgery. We offer free post-neutering clinics run by our qualified veterinary nurses, where you can have your cat weighed and discuss appropriate post neutering diets.

For more information about cat neutering please contact us.