

Female Spay (Ovariohysterectomy)

What does it involve?

The procedure consists of the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus and is usually performed at 6 months of age. Generally she will be able to go home with you the next day.

When should she be spayed?

The procedure is usually performed at 6 months of age. Contrary to popular belief, it is NOT better for her to go through her first heat cycle before being spayed. In fact, it puts her at higher risk of developing mammary cancer.

Why should I have my female cat spayed?

Spaying offers several advantages.

- The female's heat cycles occur every two to three weeks for most of the year unless she becomes pregnant. She will be in heat or receptive to mating for approximately one week in each cycle. During this time she may display unsociable behavior such as loud and persistent crying and frequent rubbing and rolling on the floor. These behaviors coupled with her scent will attract male cats from miles away. This can be very dangerous especially if your cat goes outside. Also with every subsequent heat cycle, the risk of developing breast cancer increases. Once your cat is spayed, heat cycles no longer occur and the risk of ovarian, uterine and breast cancer is almost eliminated.
- In many cases, despite your best efforts, the female will become pregnant; spaying prevents unplanned litters of kittens.
- It has been proven that as the female cat gets older, there is a significant incidence of breast cancer and uterine infections (pyometras) if she has not been spayed. Spaying before she has any heat periods will virtually eliminate the chance of either. If you do not plan to breed your cat, we strongly recommend that she be spayed before her first heat cycle. This can be done



anytime between four and six months of age. After 2 ½ years of age spaying your cat gives no protective benefit against developing breast cancer.

But people say...

- That it will make her fat.
 - This is a common myth. Obesity is most often due to excess caloric intake and lack of exercise. Discussing diet at your spay discharge can help you keep your kitten a healthy weight.
- That it will change her personality.
 - Cats personalities do not fully develop until 1-2 years of age. If anything, your kitten will become more focused on you and your family because her hormones driving her to seek out a mate will be diminished.

Male neuter (Orchiectomy)

What does it involve?

The procedure consists of the surgical removal of both testicles. Normally, he will be able to go home with you that evening. We generally recommend neutering at 6 months of age.

Why should I neuter him?

Neutering offers several advantages. Male cats are attracted to a female cat in heat and will climb over or go through fences to find her. When they are roaming, they are at a higher risk to be hit by cars. Intact male cats are more aggressive and more likely to fight, especially with other male cats. As cats age they are likely to develop very strong smelling urine as well as spraying behavior which he will do to mark his territory on surfaces other than the litter box. Neutering will solve, or greatly help, all of these problems that come with owning a male cat.



But people say...

- That it will make him fat.
 - This is a common myth. Obesity is most often due to excess caloric intake and lack of exercise. Speaking to a tech at your neuter discharge about diet can help your kitten maintain a healthy weight.
- That it will change his personality.
 - It may reduce the level of aggression your cat has but it will not drastically alter the cat's personality.