



ENNIS VETERINARY SURGERY

Information for Owners on Spaying and Neutering (Castrating) Cats

Why neuter?

In nine years, two unneutered cats and all of their offspring can produce almost 12 million cats! Cats can become pregnant when only 4 or 5 months of age. They can have three litters of kittens per year and can even become pregnant while still nursing kittens! That's a lot of kittens that you need to rehome if you allow your cat to breed!!

Quite frankly, in our opinion neutered cats make better pets! As well as all the kittens she produces a non-neutered female will attract mates and feline courtship is a noisy affair (often undertaken under your/your neighbour's bedroom window in the middle of the night)! Non-neutered males mark their territory with their strong smelling urine and are more likely to roam and fight with other male cats when they can become injured or contract contagious diseases.

Are there health benefits to neutering my cat?

Entire (non-spayed) cats are seven times more likely to develop mammary tumours than spayed cats. Neutering also eliminates the risk from problems during birth and uterine infections.

Neutering male cats reduces territorial fighting by over 80%, significantly reducing the occurrence of cat fight abscesses. Fighting cats are more likely to contract viruses that can include feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), both chronic debilitating conditions for which there is no cure.

What is neutering?

Both males and female cats can be neutered to prevent them producing kittens. To neuter a male cat both testicles are removed via small skin incisions in the scrotum. To spay a female cat some hair is clipped (either on the left side or less often in the midline of the abdomen) where a small incision is made. Both ovaries and the uterus are removed (ovario-hysterectomy). These are surgical procedures that are performed under general anaesthetic.

Recommended age of neutering

While cats can be neutered at any age we recommend that male cats are neutered and female cats are spayed at 5 to 6 months of age.

What do I need to do before surgery?

Once you have decided to have your cat neutered phone the office to book an appointment. It is important that cats going for surgery are healthy. Therefore we recommend that cats are up to date with their vaccinations and worm control before they are neutered/ spayed. It is also important to

bring any concerns you may have about your cat's health to the attention of the attending vet prior to surgery.

Food, but not water, should be withheld from your cat from **9pm the night before surgery**.

In order to safely transport your cat to our surgery you must use a suitable cat transporter (for your safety and that of your cat). While we can lend you one of our cat carriers it is less stressful for your cat to be transported in a suitable carrier* that they have become accustomed to**.

*Ensure that your cat transporter is large enough for your cat.

**Acclimatise your cat to the carrier a few weeks before you need to transport them. Allow your cat to explore the transporter and feed them some food or a favourite treat while inside. Only close the door and bring them on a short car journey when they are comfortable with the idea of being inside.

When can I collect my cat?

Collection times should be arranged with the vet at the time of admission. Under normal circumstances your cat will be ready for collection after 4 pm. We will usually try to phone you once your cat has recovered from the anaesthetic as we understand that this can be an anxious time for owners.

What do I have to do when I get my cat home?

Your cat may feel a little groggy after surgery, so do not allow him/her access to outdoors for a few hours. It is also important to ensure that other pets, if present, are not allowed to worry the cat during this time.

* Ensure a quiet, warm, draft-free bed is available.

* Provide only small amounts of food on the first night. Usually cats can consume normal amounts of food the day after surgery.

* If medication has been prescribed to your cat please follow instructions carefully.

* Female cats need to have skin sutures (stitches) removed **after 10 days**.

* There are no skin sutures in male cats following neutering.

* If the wound seems very red or swollen, or is discharging, or you have any concerns regarding your cat's demeanour or appetite during the post-surgical period do not hesitate to contact us on (065) 6829599 (serviced 24 hours).