

neutering... does it lead to a healthier and happier cat ?

What Does Neutering Involve?

Neutering your cat is a simple surgical procedure that involves the removal of the testicles in the male (orchietomy), and an ovariostereotomy (removal of the ovaries and the uterus) in the females. As with any surgical procedure there is a certain measure of risk, but the health benefits of neutering your cat far outweigh the risks.

To reduce pain and discomfort, both neutering and spaying are performed while your cat is under general anesthesia, and must be performed only by a licensed veterinarian. Most cats are able to resume their normal activities within a few days, and the stitches are usually reabsorbable and fall off after 10 days. Following the procedure, your vet will advise you on how to best care for your cat while he/she is recovering.

What are the Benefits of Neutering my Cat? With the gonads (testicles and ovaries) removed, the cat's body can no longer produce the hormones that are responsible for certain undesirable behaviours.

1. In males one of the primary reasons to neuter your cat is to reduce spraying. Male cats mark their territory - both outside the house and in - by spraying urine. Because the surgical removal of the gonads (testicles) also removes the source of the male hormone, neutered cats are less territorial, and therefore less prone to need to spray. Females are spayed to prevent unwanted kittens and to avoid repeated heat cycles - rolling, yowling

episodes usually continue every 3-4 weeks and last for 2-3 weeks at a time until your female is spayed.

2. Neutering your cat also removes the source of sperm production, thus reducing your cat's sexual behaviour. Cats often roam long distances in search of a female, placing your cat at greater risk of being harmed by another animal, hit by a car, or simply lost. These problems are significantly reduced by neutering your cat.

3. In order to maintain their territorial dominance, male cats can be quite aggressive, often getting involved in fights with other male cats to preserve their territory and to dominate the female cats in the neighbourhood. Sometimes these fights can result in injury to your cat, or in the transmission of parasites (such as ringworm) or diseases (like feline leukemia). However, your cat's hunting skills and general playfulness are not impacted by the neutering procedure. In fact male cats tend to become sweeter and more affectionate following castration.

4. Neutering your cat provides for the prospect of a healthier future by eliminating the possibility of testicular tumors and cancer. Spaying and neutering your cat cuts down on the overpopulation of pets, but it also has some individual benefits as well. By spaying your female cat, you reduce or eliminate the risk of breast cancer, tumors of the reproductive system, false pregnancies, uterine

infections and certain skin conditions related to hormonal imbalances. By neutering your male cat, you may reduce the risk of cancer and other

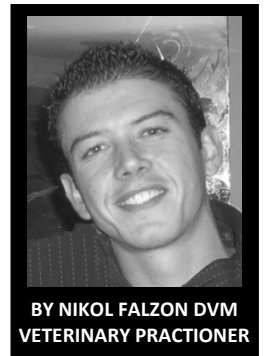
illnesses. In case of males, neutering often reduces objectionable behavior such as roaming, fighting and spraying.

When should my Cat be Neutered?

Studies show that cats can be spayed or neutered safely when they are as young as eight weeks of age. When possible, the procedure should at least be done by six months of age, as doing so will help reduce the risk of physical and behavioural problems.

Neutered cats have a tendency to gain weight, since they are no longer driven to roam as they were previously. However, your cat's weight can be managed effectively through proper diet.

The only downside to neutering your cat is that your cat will no longer be able to reproduce. This is generally a problem only if you are breeding cats. Otherwise, in terms of helping to prevent pet overpopulation as well as allowing your cat to lead a longer and healthier life, the best gift that you can offer your cat is to have him/her neutered.



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