

Neutering Your Cat



Why should I have my cat neutered?

This procedure (called castration) consists in surgical removal of the testicles, and it will reduce unwanted behaviours that are typical from intact male cats like urine marking, fighting and roaming. It also reduces the urine odour, which is very intense in an intact male.

From a community and animal welfare standpoint, neutering eliminates the risk of unwanted kittens, and contributes to reducing unwanted pets, avoiding euthanasia of healthy animals and potential cases of animal cruelty.

When should I have my cat neutered?

We recommend that male cats be castrated around 6 months of age so that they are mature enough to be anesthetized safely, but young enough so that they don't start showing unwanted behaviours triggered by testosterone, such as spraying (urine marking). Kittens older than 6 months old and adult cats can still be neutered, but the earlier it is done, the better the chances of avoiding problematic behaviours. Cats who have already started spraying should be neutered as soon as possible to maximize the chances of stopping or reducing the behaviour.

How does it work?

You need to make an appointment for your cat's surgery approximately 2-3 weeks in advance. The night before the surgery, remove his food at 9 PM, but always leave water available to him.

Bring your cat to the Hospital between 8:00 and 8:30 the day of the surgery. You will meet a veterinary technician who will weigh him, do a physical exam, offer pre-operative testing and have you sign a consent form for the surgery. She can also answer any questions or concerns you may have.

For the protection of your cat and every pet in the hospital, all patients must be up to date for vaccinations prior to routine surgery.

The operation

After admitting him, we will give your cat a sedative so that he can be safely and comfortably handled. After the sedative has taken effect (approximately 20 minutes), he will receive an intravenous anesthetic which will make him sleep deep enough for the technician to clip and wash his scrotum, and for the surgeon to perform the procedure.

The procedure itself will take approximately 10 minutes. When the surgeon is done, we monitor the patient until he is awake and we bring him to a recovery cage.

When all the surgeries of the day are complete, we will call you to give an update on how the surgery went and set up an appointment for you to come pick him up later in the afternoon. When you come to pick him up, you will meet with a technician who will discuss the after care instructions with you.

After care

There shouldn't be any vigorous activity for at least a few days after the surgery. There are no sutures on the incisions (one over each testicle). Check the incision every day for swelling or discharge, and call us if you have any concerns.

If your cat licks his incision excessively, come to the clinic to get him an Elizabethan collar to stop him from opening or infecting his incision.