

Neutering and Spaying Your Cat

Why should I have my cat neutered?

Males

Neutering or castration offers a number of advantages, especially if performed at an early age. Following puberty, at approximately 8-9 months old, the male cat often develops a number of undesirable behavior changes. He will be territorial and start to mark areas, even inside the house by spraying urine, which will have a particularly strong and difficult to remove odor. He will start to enlarge his territory by straying ever farther from home, particularly at night. It is for this reason that many cats hit by cars are non-neutered males. By increasing his territory he will come into contact with other cats and fight for dominance. Inflicted fight wounds can result in severe infections and abscesses. Since diseases such as FIV and FeLV, which can cause AIDS-like syndromes and cancers in cats, are spreadable through bites, these cats are commonly affected by such incurable diseases.

Females

Neutering or spaying, in female cats also offers several advantages. Most obviously, it will prevent unplanned litters. Once a cat reaches puberty (around 7 months), most of the year the queen will be “in heat” for approximately one week every two to three weeks until she is mated. During “heat” she may display unsociable behavior such as loud and persistent crying and frequently rubbing and rolling on the floor. Such behavior and scent will attract tomcats from miles around. This will be eliminated by spaying. Finally, spaying will remove the risk of uterine infection and cancer and may reduce the risk of breast cancer.

There is no medical reason for allowing your cat to have a litter before spaying.

When should I have my cat neutered?

Research reveals that neutering a pet at an early age does not cause any increased risk. We recommend neutering at 6 months of age, although it is never too late.

Are there any dangers associated to surgery?

With today’s modern anesthetics and monitoring equipment, the risk of a complication is very low. It has been said that your pet has a greater chance of being injured in a car wreck than having an anesthetic or surgical complication.

What does the operation involve?

Both male and female cats will undergo a general anesthetic. You will need to withhold food for twelve hours prior to surgery. Your pet should have free access to water during the pre-operative fasting period.

In male cats, both testicles are removed through a small incision in the scrotum. Stitches are rarely required in the skin.

In females, the operation is performed through a relatively small incision made in the midline of the abdomen. Both ovaries are removed along with the uterus. Normally, skin stitches are used that will be removed 10 days after surgery.

To answer any question, please call Bridletowne Warden Animal Hospital at 416-491-8706.