



CAYMAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Neutering and Spaying of your Cat

Why should I choose to spay or neuter my cat?

Having your pet spayed (ovariohysterectomy) or neutered (castrated) is an inexpensive and realistic method of pet population control. The number of unwanted adult and young animals that are euthanized each year in the United States is astounding. Aside from the pet overpopulation problem, neutering a male animal and spaying a female helps prevent, and even eliminates, many medical problems.

Male cats

Male cats are almost impossible to keep as pets unless they are neutered. When they reach sexual maturity (around seven to nine months of age—even earlier for some cats), their kitten lifestyle dramatically changes. A non-neutered adult male cat becomes extremely territorial. His life predominately consists of patrolling and defending his territory. Even though his immediate territory may consist of the building and grounds where he lives, he may also consider the female cat that lives two blocks away as his territory. He defends his territory against intrusion by other animals, particularly other cats.





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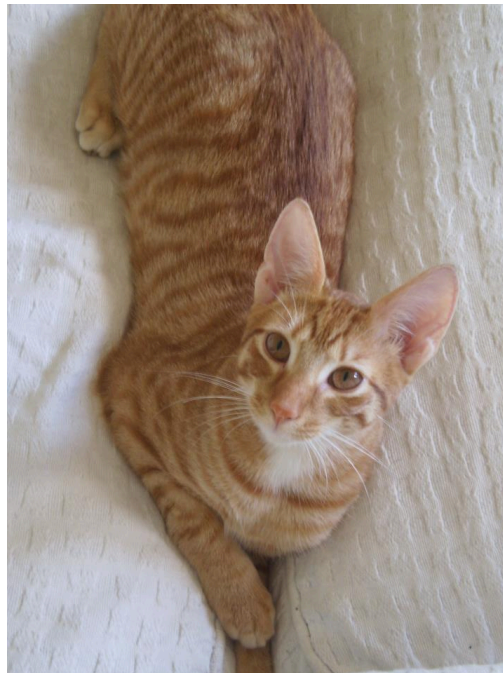
There is nothing more ferocious than a fight between two non-neutered male cats. Some non-neutered male cats have even been known to attack Dobermans and German Shepherds that have entered their territory. Unless your male cat is neutered, you may be spending a good deal of time and money at the veterinary hospital, having him treated for injuries.

Male cats often spray urine. This behavior is instinctive and has nothing to do with litter box training. Non-neutered males spray urine in order to identify ("mark") their territory.

These unacceptable behavior traits will probably never be seen if your kitten is neutered at an early age. If your adult cat is neutered, most of these problems will disappear.

Castration procedure (Male cats)

Orchidectomy, Castration or Neutering involves a male cat undergoing general anesthesia and the testicles permanently removed. This will render the male cat unable to reproduce. The procedure is simple to perform and is best performed on young cats. If allowed to mature, male cats will develop instinctual unwanted behaviors such as spraying and fighting (posing a threat of contracting and spreading the Feline Aids and Feline Leukaemia Viruses) and will develop characteristic fat cheeks ("Jowls") and their urine will take on a 'strong' smell. The procedure can be completed in a day and your pet will receive pain control medications on the day of surgery and will require 7 days of rest post operatively. This will require your pet to be kept indoors.



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Female Cats

A non-spayed adult female cat is a kitten machine. Female cats have their first estrous cycles around seven to nine months of age. During the springtime, some kittens can actually go into heat when they are five to seven months old.

Detection of estrous is usually quite easy. Most owners think that there is something wrong with their cat. The cat becomes extremely affectionate, wants to be caressed, and rolls about on her back. She is very vocal and meows incessantly. No vaginal bleeding occurs (some cats may have very limited bleeding, but this is very rare) like in dogs; however, non-neutered male cats are still attracted by their scent. Your neighbors will definitely comment about the nightly musical serenade performed by the large variety of male cats that patrol your house.



If your non-spayed female cat is bred, kittens will arrive in two months (that's kittens, not kitten). The average litter size is six to eight kittens. More kittens will arrive again in a few more months as female cats have estrous cycles year round.

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Ovariohysterectomy procedure (Female cats)

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying a female cat. Ovariohysterectomy is best performed on kittens and young cats. If necessary, the surgery can be performed at a very early age without any noticeable side effects. Though ovariohysterectomies can be performed at any age, the surgery is much less complicated and there are fewer risks when the animal is young.

Even though a spay is considered routine surgery, there is nothing routine about any abdominal surgery performed under general anesthesia. Ovariohysterectomies are major abdominal procedures, especially when performed on older cats that have had several heat cycles or have had kittens.



Having your female cat spayed is an obligation that comes with pet ownership. All humane organizations, animal shelters and veterinarians promote the concept of pet population control by having dogs and cats spayed and neutered. The cost of a cat spay is inexpensive, especially when one considers what is involved.

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Here at Cayman Animal Hospital our spaying protocol follows the same pattern as for all surgical procedures (please see 'Anesthesia' under 'Services' for a full explanation). The procedure will be performed in the morning and your pet will be able to go home later the same day. Pain control medications are administered at the time of surgery and continued at home for the following week.

Your pet will require rest in the recovery phase for 7 to 10 days post procedure. This will require your pet to be kept indoors. Internal sutures are placed so your pet cannot bother at them, though as cats love to groom an elizabethan collar may be recommended if your pet excessively bothers at the surgical site.

Additional pre and post operative care considerations are available for review in this section.