



## **Information Sheet**

### **Neutering cats**

#### **Ovario-hysterectomy(spaying)**

An ovario-hysterectomy is the medical term for spaying or neutering female cats. The procedure consists of the surgical removal of the ovaries and the uterus. Surgery can be performed at any age but is best done from 4 months, at an age before the cat comes into season for the first time.

Reasons for

1. There will be no more heat periods.
2. She will be unable to get pregnant - so there will be no unwanted kittens.
3. The risk of her getting a potentially life-threatening uterine infection (pyometra) is removed. This is common to older cats.
4. The chances of her suffering from hormone induced mammary (breast) cancer can be reduced.

#### **Frequently asked questions**

1. 'Will it make my cat fat and lazy?' No. Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.
2. 'Will it change her disposition, personality or intelligence?' Cats' personalities do not fully develop until 1 year of age. If there is a personality change after spaying at an early age, it would have occurred without surgery.
3. 'Shouldn't my cat have a litter first?' No. There is no advantage in allowing your cat to have a litter of kittens.

#### **Castration**

Castration is the surgical removal of the testicles. The operation may be performed on any male cat from 4 months onwards. There is no evidence that neutering at an early age results in obesity, bladder infections or stunted growth.

Reasons for

1. Reduction of the strong, offensive odour of the urine.
2. Reduction of the desire to stray or roam.
3. Reduction in aggressive behaviour.
4. Reduction of territorial marking - spraying urine to mark territory.

5. Reduction of territorial fighting - so reducing the risk of Feline Leukaemia.

6. Reduction of the cat population - prevention of unwanted kittens.

Reasons against ...

All general anaesthetics involve some risks. The risk is smaller in young, fit animals than in older cats.

### **Information Sheet**

#### **Neutering dogs**

##### **Ovario-hysterectomy (spaying)**

Spaying, or neutering, involves the removal of the ovaries and the uterus (Ovario-hysterectomy). Surgery can be performed from 6 months of age, the optimum time to spay is 3 months after the finish of the season

Reasons for

1. The bitch will no longer come into season (no mess or inconvenience).
2. She will be unable to get pregnant - so there will be no unwanted puppies.
3. The risk of her getting a potentially life-threatening uterine infection (pyometra) is removed. This is common in middle aged entire bitches.
4. The chances of her suffering from hormone induced mammary (breast) cancer can be reduced.

##### **Castration of the dog**

Castration, or neutering, involves surgical removal of the testicles and can be done in any male dog from around 6 months onwards.

Reasons for

1. All male dogs have natural urges. Castration removes these, and also the resulting tendency to roam and other undesirable behaviour.
2. Some potentially life-threatening medical problems are more likely to occur in entire males e.g. hernias, prostate trouble, testicular tumours. Castration reduces or removes the danger.

##### **Your dog's castration**

- After the operation many dogs lick the wound and cause post-operative inflammation and infection.

- We STRONGLY recommend use of a Buster collar post op to save your dog discomfort and you further expense.