



COUNCIL BLUFFS VETERINARY CLINIC

1229 South 3rd Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

(712) 323-2147

www.cbvetclinic.com

FACTS ABOUT NEUTERING YOUR MALE CAT

“Orchiectomy” (also called neutering or castration) is the correct term for the surgical procedure done to prevent your male cat from reproducing. While many responsible cat owners have their females spayed, far too few seem to realize the importance of having their males neutered.

From the medical standpoint there are many problems in older male cats that can be easily prevented if the cat has been neutered. If one of the testicles has not descended into the scrotum (a genetic disorder known as cryptorchidism), he would stand a much higher chance than normal of developing several different testicular tumors. Additionally, cryptorchidism is a genetic trait, which means that any male descendant of a cryptorchid cat, or the sons of his female descendants, are at drastically increased risk of being cryptorchid themselves.

It is also important to neuter your cat from a behavioral standpoint as well. Females are sexually active only periodically, but males are capable of breeding all year long, and a male does not have to see a queen in heat to get aroused. His nose is so sensitive that he can smell a female in heat many blocks away. You can NOT teach your cat to control his mating instincts. Even when you have him securely confined indoors, he will try repeatedly to get loose, dig out, climb over, or do whatever he can to find a way out, sometimes even injuring himself in his quest to find his mate. Once he does escape, all the perils that kill so many strays can now affect your cat; he could easily be hit by a car, exposed to diseases and parasites, get hurt in a fight or even get shot all while trying to mate with a queen in season.

Neutering your male cat before he becomes sexually mature, which happens at about 8 or 9 months of age, will make him easier to live with, more devoted, happier and healthier. It will also virtually eliminate the chance that he will begin *spraying*, which is a male cat's way of marking his environment, which he does by urinating on virtually anything upright. This is, incidentally, probably the #1 reason people bring their male cats to be neutered – cat urine has a VERY potent odor! A neutered cat is healthier, happier and if he is not allowed to breed before he's neutered he will not have added to the cat population surplus that results in THOUSANDS of kittens and cats being killed in shelters every year.

Neutering your cat will also make him a more efficient eater, saving you money on his feed bill since he will not need as much food to stay in good shape. (This is related to the myth about neutered cats becoming fat: neutering your cat will NOT make him fat; overfeeding will make your cat fat.)

If you have any questions or concerns, call and ask doctors at the Council Bluffs Veterinary clinic at 323-2147. We are open 8-6 Monday through Friday, 8-12 on Saturdays.



COUNCIL BLUFFS VETERINARY CLINIC

1229 South 3rd Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

(712) 323-2147

www.cbvetclinic.com

FACTS ABOUT SPAYING YOUR FEMALE PET

“Ovariohysterectomy” is the medical term for the operation commonly known as “spaying,” and consists of the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus of your pet. Chances are that, by having this surgery done, you will add years to your pet’s life as it is a medical fact that spayed animals live longer and have fewer health risks than those that are not spayed.

Pets do not need to go through a heat cycle before being spayed. In fact, the risks of surgical complications are increased even after ONE heat cycle. To reflect this, Council Bluffs Veterinary Clinic charges less to spay an animal before her first heat cycle than after she has been in heat.

This does not mean that there is no benefit to spaying a pet even after several heat cycles. The main medical reason for spaying a pet before her first heat cycle is that you will have nearly eliminated the possibility of her developing mammary cancer later in life. About 1 in 200 pets spayed before their first heat will develop mammary cancer; after the first heat this chance drops to 1 in 12; after the second & subsequent cycles, this chance drops to 1 in 4. Even if she is spayed later, you will completely eliminate the chance that she will get ovarian cancer or a severe uterine infection called a *pyometra*. A pyometra is a medical emergency and is common in older dogs (and cats) that have not been spayed. The only effective treatment for a pyometra is to spay the pet (a difficult, delicate and expensive surgery), otherwise this condition is virtually always fatal.

Some people believe that spaying will make their pet fat. Spaying will make your pet more food efficient, thus saving you money on pet food bills because she will need less food to thrive. With this in mind, it is important to realize that spaying does NOT make your pet fat; OVERFEEDING makes your pet fat.

Having your pet spayed will also reduce the amount of money spent on city and county license fees, since the fee is reduced for spayed pets.

Because she will not have the hormone swings and frustrations associated with heat cycles or cystic ovaries, your pet’s temperament should be steadier. Spaying is unlikely to make a mean pet sweet, a shy pet bold, or anything so drastic as that, but it may help to settle a nervous pet and allow her to concentrate more fully on the lessons you teach her, thus making her easier to work with.

The other reason to have your pet spayed is because accidental breedings have resulted in a pet population surplus that results in THOUSANDS of puppies and pets being killed in shelters every year.

There are certain risks associated with any surgery, but there are far more associated with having your pet remain unspayed or have a litter.