



## LINKS VETERINARY GROUP

### NEUTERING INFORMATION – CATS

#### What is neutering?

Neutering is a general term used to describe permanent surgical removal of the functional sexual organs of both male and female pets. In males we call this castration, and in females we call it spaying.

#### When can cats be neutered?

From 4 months old

#### What are the pros and cons of neutering?

- At Links Veterinary Group we recommend that all companion cats and dogs not intended for breeding are neutered.

	PROS	CONS
CASTRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevention of unwanted kittens</li><li>• Eliminates possibility of testicular disease</li><li>• Reduced incidence of sexually driven aggressive behaviours and roaming</li><li>• Reduced incidence of sexually driven territorial behaviours e.g. spraying urine at home</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change in metabolism may increase the risk of weight gain.</li><li>• Increased incidence of urinary tract disease</li></ul>
SPAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevention of unwanted kittens</li><li>• Prevention of ovarian and uterine disease</li><li>• Reduced sexually driven behaviours such as vocalisation and roaming</li><li>• Significant reduction in risk of mammary tumours</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change in metabolism may increase the risk of weight gain.</li></ul>

#### What does neutering involve?

- Neutering is performed under a general anaesthetic by a veterinary surgeon.
- Anaesthetic monitoring and aftercare is provided by our fantastic team of registered veterinary nurses.
- Neutering is an outpatient procedure so your pet is able to go home later the same day.

#### What to expect on the day?

##### The Admission Appointment

- The procedure can be carried out at either our main hospital in Haddington, or our branch surgery in Musselburgh.
- You will be asked to drop off your pet at an admission appointment with one of our nurses between 8:30am and 9:10am.
- The nurse will go over the procedure and ask you for your consent.



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#### **Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Screening**

All pets are clinically examined prior to surgery. However, a pre anaesthetic blood sample provides further opportunity to detect potential abnormalities *prior* to inducing anaesthesia. In otherwise young, fit and healthy pets we do not expect abnormalities. However, this is an added level of confidence that we can provide your pet the best possible level of care on the day of their operation.

#### **The procedure**

Your cat will be admitted and made to feel comfortable. An injection is administered to induce anaesthesia and pre-emptive pain relief is administered before proceeding.

**Cat Castration** - Hair over the testicles is shaved to allow for the site to be sterilely prepared. Each testicle is removed via a small individual incision. The incisions are not sutured closed but left open to heal naturally. The procedure takes around 10 minutes.

**Cat Spay** – A patch of hair is shaved on the left side of the abdomen to allow for the site to be sterilely prepared for surgery. The ovaries and uterus are carefully removed through a small incision, which is sutured closed with dissolvable stitches. This procedure can take up to 30 minutes.

Following the procedure your pet will be closely monitored by our nursing team. Once your pet is awake, we will call you with an update and arrange a discharge appointment for later the same afternoon, allowing sufficient time for recovery from anaesthesia.

#### **The Discharge appointment**

- A nurse will discuss post-operative care for your cat, which will usually involve pain management and exercise restriction to give the tissues time to heal, and ensure a comfortable, speedy recovery.
- A nurse will show you where the incision was made and what to look out for in case any problems should arise.

#### **Back at Home**

- Pets are often quite drowsy for the first 24 hours.
- Administer pain medication as instructed on your pet's discharge notes.
- In most cases dissolvable sutures will be used so there will be no need for stitches to be removed.
- A nurse will phone the day after surgery to ensure any queries or concerns are discussed. However do not hesitate to call us if any questions or concerns arise.

**Haddington:** 01620 822262

**Musselburgh:** 0131 665 3343