



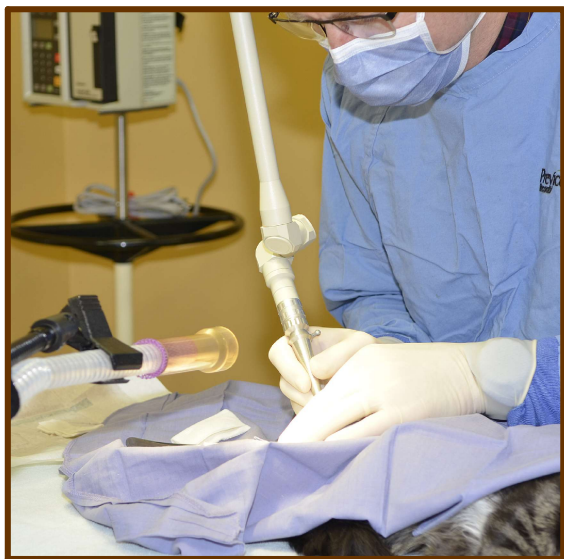
Cat Neuter

We strongly believe that all kittens should be neutered by 6 months of age. The technical term for a "cat neuter" is a "*feline orchidectomy*" and it refers to the complete removal of the testicles. A neutered cat can not make a female cat become pregnant and will not contribute to pet over population. There will be a significant reduction in fighting with other male cats, roaming and spraying urine to mark territory. Neutering also tends to reduce the offensive odour of "Tom Cat" urine. We suggest 6 months of age because most male kittens reach puberty by 7-9 months of age and they may start "spraying". There is also an increased fee for neutering mature male cats.

What's involved with having my kitten neutered? At Sault Ste. Marie Animal Clinic, our top priority is to keep your pet safe and comfortable. The neutering procedure is done by the veterinarian using a surgical laser and appropriate sterile technique.

Neutering or orchidectomy requires general anesthesia for your kitten. When administering a general anesthetic, we incorporate a mild sedative to help your pet relax and an aggressive pain prevention protocol. All pets receive an short acting injectable anesthetic to have a tube placed in their throat and then are connected to gas anesthesia. The scrotum will be surgically prepared and an incision will be made through which the testicles will be removed. It is important to remove the entire testicle so that that the major source of testosterone is removed. Testosterone is the hormone that causes most of the undesirable behaviours of un-neutered male cats such as fighting and spraying urine. There will be no external sutures visible and the incision will be closed with a small amount of tissue glue. At Sault Ste. Marie Animal Clinic, the procedure is done using a *surgical laser* which significantly reduces pain, inflammation and bleeding at the site of the incision.

When should I schedule the surgery? We like to book the appointment for your kitten's neutering when he is in for his final kitten booster/rabies vaccination at four months of age. We usually aim to schedule the procedure close to their six month birthday since most kittens reach puberty between 7-9 months of age. Your kitten will need to admitted into the hospital no later than 8:30 the day of the scheduled procedure and will likely go home late afternoon of the same day.



At Sault Ste. Marie Animal Clinic, your kitten will enjoy the benefits of **Laser Surgery**. Using a surgical laser instead of traditional scalpel results in significantly less bleeding, swelling and pain for the patient!

What about declawing? If you are planning on having your kitten declawed, the best time is when he in for his neutering. We find that kittens declawed at six months of age recover more quickly and they undergo only one anesthetic and one hospital stay. We do however, keep kittens who are declawed in the hospital for two nights as opposed to going home the same day for neutering alone. We use a surgical laser and a very liberal pain control protocol for our declaw procedures which we feel results in significantly less pain and discomfort for the patient and results in faster healing than traditional scalpel techniques.