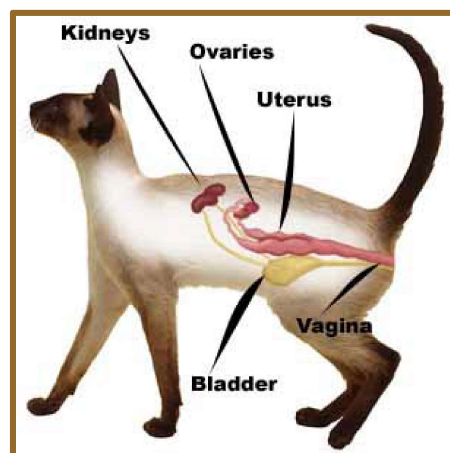




Cat Spay

We **strongly believe** that all kittens should be spayed by 6 months of age. The technical term for a "cat spay" is a "*feline ovariectomy*" and it refers to *the complete removal of the uterus and the ovaries*. A spayed cat can not become pregnant and she will not go into heat. She will have a significantly reduced risk of cancer of the mammary and reproductive organs and will avoid potentially life threatening problems such as infections of the uterus and complications from pregnancy later in life. We suggest 6 months of age because most female kittens will reach puberty by 7-9 months of age making the surgery technically more difficult (there can be an increased risk and cost to the procedure if older than 6 months).



What's involved with having my kitten spayed? "Spaying" or an ovariectomy involves abdominal surgery for your kitten. This means that she will require a general anesthetic and an incision will be made into her abdomen. A roughly 8 by 10 cm rectangle of hair will be clipped away from her tummy and she will have 2-4 cm incision in the middle. The entire ovaries and uterus will be removed. Most cats will not have stitches that you can see when they go home (there will be stitches under the skin that dissolve over time)



Our top priority is keeping your pet safe and comfortable:

- Comprehensive, multi-stage anesthetic protocol including sedatives and pain killers for your pet's mental and physical comfort
- Patients are placed on warming pads and closely monitored throughout procedure using a combination of advanced heart and respiratory monitors as well as experienced "hands on" observation
- We follow rigorous sterile technique, always use separate surgical packs for each patient, individual packets of sterilized suture material and surgical drapes and the veterinarian will wear a sterilized surgical gown, gloves, and a cap and mask

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!

When should I schedule the surgery? We like to book the appointment for your kitten's spay when she is in for her final kitten booster/rabies vaccination at four months of age. We usually aim to schedule the procedure close to their six month birthday, before they reach puberty. An older kitten/cat might be "in heat" or pregnant and that can significantly complicate the procedure. Your kitten will be admitted into the hospital between 8:00-8:30 the day of the procedure and will likely go home late afternoon the same day.

What about declawing? If you are planning on having your kitten declawed, the best time is when she is in for her spaying. 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 spaying 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.