

CAT SPAY

We believe 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?

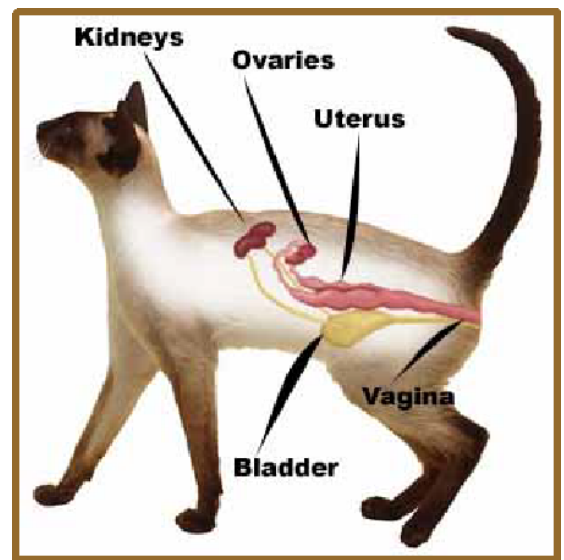
"Spaying" or an ovariectomy involves abdominal surgery for your kitten. This means that she will require a general anesthetic and an incision will be made into her abdomen. A roughly 8 by 10 cm rectangle of hair will be clipped away from her tummy and she will have 2-4 cm incision in the middle. The entire ovaries and uterus will be removed. Most cats will have stitches that will need to be removed in 10-14 days.

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!

For added safety, we recommend a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Screen** prior to your pet undergoing general anesthesia and surgery.

When should I schedule the surgery? We like to book the appointment for your kitten's spay when she is in for her final booster/rabies vaccination at four months of age. We will aim to schedule the surgery at 6 months of age. Your kitten will be admitted to the hospital between 8:00-8:30 the morning of the procedure and likely be discharged late afternoon of the same day.

What about declawing? In recent years there has been a strong movement away from declawing cats with many veterinary associations condemning the procedure and some states and provinces moving towards an outright ban. The concerns are not only the pain associated with the procedure and potential complications such as regrowth of nails (which can be managed with proper technique and a liberal pain control protocol at the time of surgery) but the long term effects to the cat's gaits and mobility. Please feel free to give us a call if you have further questions about declawing your kitten.



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, cap and mask

