

CAT NEUTER

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.

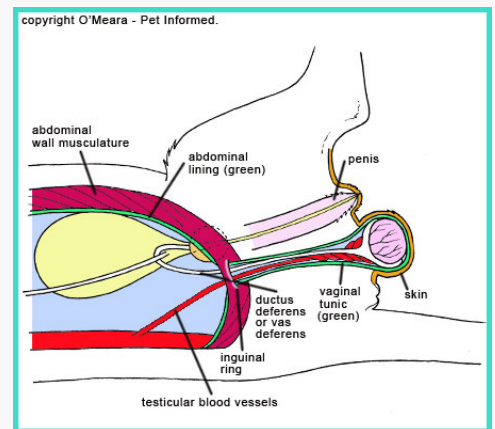
What's involved with having my male kitten neutered?

"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 a 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 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.



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



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.