



## Neutering the Male Cat

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### WHY NEUTERING IS A GOOD IDEA

Neutering a male cat is an excellent step in helping your young man grow into a loving well adapted household citizen. The main reason to neuter a male cat is to reduce the incidence of objectionable behaviors that are normal in the feline world but unacceptable in the human world.

**ROAMING:** > 90% will reduce this behavior with neutering. Approx. 60% reduce this behavior right away.

**FIGHTING:** > 90% will reduce this behavior with neutering. Approx. 60% reduce this behavior right away.

**URINE MARKING:** > 90% will reduce this behavior with neutering. Approx. 80% reduce this behavior right away. (The extreme odor of tom cat urine is reduced after neutering as well.)

Another reason to neuter a male cat has to do with the physical appearance. A cat neutered prior to puberty (most cats are neutered at approximately age 6 months) does not develop secondary sex characteristics. These include a more muscular body, thickenings around the face called "shields," and spines on the penis.



Male cat neutered prior to puberty



Male cat neutered after reaching puberty

### WHAT IS DONE EXACTLY

The feline neuter is one of the simplest surgical procedures performed in all of veterinary medicine. The cat is fasted over night so that anesthesia is performed on an empty stomach. The scrotum is opened with a small incision and the testicles are brought out. The cords are either pulled free and tied to each other or a small suture is used to tie the cords and the testicle is cut free. The skin incision on the scrotum is small enough so as not to require stitches of any kind.

### RECOVERY

There is minimal recovery with this procedure. Most hospitals, like ours, discharge kittens the same day of surgery. It is a good idea not to bathe your kitten until the incisions have healed 10-14 days from the time of surgery.