

The
Range Animal Hospital

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Advanced
Diagnostics, Medicine
Surgery, Dentistry, &
Trauma Care
for
Large & Small Animals

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Castrating Your Cat

Castration in Cats

General Information

Castration is the medical term for neutering a male cat. The procedure consists of surgical removal of the testicles. When a cat is castrated just before sexual maturity at 9 months of age, the cat's sexual instincts are reduced, and he becomes sterile. He will however keep his natural hunting instincts. The strong odor of a male cat is also reduced. Surgery is usually performed at 4 months of age.

Though it is routinely performed, castration does require general anesthesia. Recovery is generally uneventful, the hospital stay short, and aftercare is minimal.

What are the Advantages?

There will be a lesser tendency to spray urine in the house.

There will be less desire to go out "Catting" and come home injured from fighting.

There is a decreased urine odor.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will it make my cat fat and lazy? -- **No**. Obesity is due to excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.

Will it change his personality, disposition or intelligence? -- **No**. Cats' personalities do not fully develop until 1 year of age. If there is a personality change in a cat neutered at a young age, it would have occurred without surgery.

Surgery? I'm scared!

With advances in surgery and anesthesia, veterinary

surgery is **extremely safe**, and every precaution before, during and after surgery will be taken. Dr. Martinson, our staff surgeon, has over 20 years of experience in the operating room and has performed this procedure **thousands of times**. There are, however, a few simple procedures you can carry out at home to minimize risks and prevent unnecessary problems.

Important Considerations Before Surgery:

Good nutrition is very important to reduce surgical stress and aids prompt recovery. If you have not already done so, discuss your cat's diet with the doctor or veterinary technician.

Your cat should be free of intestinal parasites (worms) and all vaccinations should be current before surgery. If you are in doubt, check with your doctor or veterinary technician before surgery.

If your cat is taking medication or has an existing health problem, inform the doctor or veterinary technician before surgery.

Anesthetics are best given on an empty stomach. Do not feed your cat for 8 hours before surgery. Water may be given up to 1 hour before surgery.

Important Considerations After Surgery:

Restrict your cat's activity for 2 days after surgery.

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur:

If there is swelling, redness or drainage at the incision.

Your cat licks or chews the incision.

Your cat refuses to eat or seems depressed after the first day home.

There is blood in his urine or bleeding from the

incision area.

There is a change in your cat's general health.

Other things you need to know:

Dr. Martinson's technique requires **very small incisions** and there are no external sutures. As a result cats castrated at the Range Animal Hospital **do not need to return for suture removal**.

The cost for a cat castration is \$72.50 for cats less than 2 years old.

Your cat will be admitted between 7:30AM and 9AM the day of his surgery. He will go home the following day between 8AM and 5PM, or 9AM and noon if it is Saturday.

I hope this information helps you, and please call 932-3531 or 1-888-380-6319 (toll free) for an appointment or if you have any further questions.