

# Information on neutering your cat

## Why we recommend neutering

### Benefits for the cat

#### Containment of contagious diseases

Many cat diseases such as FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, also known as Feline AIDS), FeLV (Feline Leukaemia Virus, also known as leukaemia) or FPV (Feline Parvovirus or infectious enteritis) are transmitted primarily through the mating act and bite injuries. Female animals are particularly prone to infections caused by injuries inflicted through a bite in the neck by a male cat during mating. Neutering eliminates these risks. As neutered cats are proven to be more balanced and less aggressive, there will be fewer bite wounds overall, further reducing the risk of infection.

#### Reduced risk of accident

If the animals are neutered early on, there is minimal risk of hormonal diseases such as cysts, uterine inflammation, uterine pus or mammary tumours in female cats, or prostate issues in male cats.

#### Reduced risk of accidents

Neutered cats are less likely to stray. They have smaller territories and cross fewer roads because they are not looking for mating partners. As a result, the risk of accidents is significantly reduced.

#### No pregnancy or birth risks

Pregnancy and giving birth pose numerous health risks for mother and kittens, which, if undetected, can lead to the agonising death of the animals. Resulting veterinary costs can be high: an emergency caesarean section, for example, is three times more expensive than neutering. If the mother is unable to take care of the kittens herself, they must be cared for 24/7 over a longer period of time; this requires a lot of time, knowledge and determination, and sadly, often doesn't result in success.



**We take action where the need is great.**

## Benefits for people

Neutered cats do not display the typical manifestations of being 'on heat' such as caterwauling, frequent and foul-smelling marking with urine, or intense territorial fights. Neutered cats have a lower urge to stray, show less aggression and are often more affectionate towards humans.

## Other benefits

The large cat population is drawing much criticism. Cats are often blamed for the decline in several species. Regardless of how large the contribution of cats to this really is – this risk becomes significantly smaller if cat numbers are reduced.

Furthermore, neutered cats do not mate with wild cats and therefore will not contribute to the mixing of the gene pool of this protected species.

## The surgery

Essentially, neutering is a safe, routine procedure for a healthy cat. In the case of a male cat, his testes will be removed (orchietomy). This is called castration. The incision necessary for this is so small that it does not even have to be stitched. In a female cat, the procedure is called spaying. Most of the time, this will involve removal of the ovaries only (ovariectomy). In some cases, e.g. in the case of pathological changes, the uterus will also be removed (ovariohysterectomy). This is also done by a small incision in the abdominal wall, which is closed with some stitches. Before the operation, the animal will have to fast for 12 hours. The cat can usually return home the same day and be let outside the day after. Ask your vet to explain the detailed neutering procedure they will use on your cat.

Neutering a cat has no drawbacks. The only thing to bear in mind is that the energy intake (feeding) should be reduced, as the elimination of hormones will reduce the calorie requirement.

Incidentally, numerous studies have proved that early neutering does not lead to any physical or behavioural issues.

## Conclusion

Reproduction is not necessary for cats from a medical or behavioural point of view. It is a misconception that they must have kittens at least once! There are far too many cats in Switzerland that do not have a home. NetAP estimates that approximately 100,000 kittens die or are actively killed each year because they are not wanted. Please help fight the cat suffering in our country by refraining from breeding more cats. Thank you very much!

**We take action where the need is great.**