

## Neutering Male Cats

Castration of male cats involves the removal of both testicles. This is done by making two small incisions into the skin over each testicle. The wounds are then left to heal naturally. Removal of the testicles causes testosterone (male hormone) levels to fall significantly, and can have an effect on behaviour as a result.

### Advantages

- Can reduce the risk of straying with the associated risk of road traffic accidents.
- Can reduce unwanted sexual behaviours such as urine spraying.
- Often reduces the frequency of fighting with other male cats therefore reducing the risk of contracting diseases such as FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) or FeLV (feline leukemia virus) which are spread through infected blood/saliva.
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer.

### Disadvantages

- There is always a risk of adverse reactions with any general anaesthetic or surgery, this can include death but this risk is very low, on the contrary most recover remarkably well.
- Some specific risks of castration include haemorrhage, break down of the wound, suture material reactions, bruising, inflammation and infection of the wound. Unfortunately, post-operative complications such as bruising, inflammation and infection are much more likely in animals than humans undergoing the same procedure – our involvement to try to keep them calm and stop wound interference will go a long way to reduce these risks.
- An association with an increased tendency to gain weight. This can be controlled with dietary management discussed at the post operation check). Molecare recommend that you book your cat in for a free weight assessment at 2-3 post operatively.
- May increase the risk of developing urinary disease. However, there are many other factors which may predispose a cat to developing urinary disease. These include obesity, lifestyle, diet and stress.

### A note on retained testicles (Cryptorchidism)...

Cryptorchidism is the failure of one or both testicles to descend in to the scrotum.

Castration is strongly recommended as a retained testicle is up to thirteen times more likely to develop cancer. If they have not descended by 4-5 months of age, they are unlikely to in the future.

The procedure is more complicated than a standard castration as the retained testicle may be within the abdomen, and hence the time taken, risks and costs are different. If you have any further questions, please book an appointment to discuss the procedure with your vet or vet nurse.

### Pre-operative care

Please make sure your cat has not had any access to food after 8pm the previous evening, water can be left down until approximately 7.30am on the morning of the surgery. Please keep your cat in overnight to ensure they don't hunt/eat anything outside. Make sure to provide them with a litter tray to encourage them to go to the toilet before they come in. Try to keep your cat as clean as possible before bringing her in for the day as this will reduce the chance of infection. If your cat has any special dietary requirements it is a good idea to bring her own food in for when she wakes up. If your cat gets especially stressed or has any behavioural issues please notify us on the day so we can try to keep her as happy as possible during her stay with us.

### Admission for surgery

On arrival at the surgery, you can expect to be seen by a vet or a veterinary nurse who will check that you understand the nature of the operation and will examine your cat to check he is well enough for the surgery and to check for cryptorchidism. They will ask you to read and to sign a consent form for the procedure and ask you to supply contact phone numbers. Although we do not expect any trouble, it is very important that we can contact you for any emergencies during the day so please keep a telephone at hand.

### Post-operative care

Cats generally recover quickly from the surgery.

Pain relief and two post-operative checks are included in the cost of the procedure. It is also necessary for your cat to wear a buster collar to stop them licking the wounds as they heal. If your cat is allowed to lick the area, they may cause inflammation and or infection.

It is important to monitor him closely for 24 hours following the procedure. Some cats will require further monitoring depending on their individual reaction to the general anaesthetic/procedure. Please be aware of this when booking a date for his surgery.

You will be given a post-operation care sheet to guide you through this process and you will be allocated a dedicated discharge slot in order to discuss this prior to taking him home.

### Whiskers Veterinary

22 Battle Road, Heathfield Industrial Estate,  
Newton Abbot, Devon. TQ12 6RY

T 01626 835002 | E [hello@whiskersvets.co.uk](mailto:hello@whiskersvets.co.uk)

**Opening Hours** Mon - Fri: 8am - 7pm, Sat: 8:30am - 1pm

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