

**Brick Town Veterinary Hospital, P.A.**  
**251 Chambers Bridge Road**  
**Brick, NJ 08723**  
**(732) 477-9440**

### **SHOULD I NEUTER MY CAT?**

Unless you plan to use your pet for breeding, we recommend that your cat be neutered at 6 to 8 months of age. There are several health benefits to neutering your cat and the risks of surgery are minimal, especially when done at a young age.

**FEMALES.** Spaying (the procedure is called an ovariohysterectomy) your cat involves an abdominal surgery in which the ovaries and uterus are removed. Spaying is usually performed at 6 to 8 months of age.

Some of the benefits of spaying a female cat include:

- Eliminating unwanted heats and the annoying behavior associated with the estrus cycle.
- Greatly reducing the risk of mammary cancer (if done prior to the first heat).
- Protecting your cat against the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and uterine infection (pyometra).
- Helping control the pet population crisis by preventing unwanted pregnancies.

There is no scientific evidence that your cat will in any way benefit from having a heat cycle or a litter before spaying.

**MALES.** Castration of a cat is a surgical procedure in which the testicles are removed. Neutering a male cat at 6 to 8 months of age will help eliminate many unwanted behavioral problems that develop with sexual maturity and can significantly lengthen your cat's life.

Some of the benefits of castrating a male cat include:

- Helping to eliminate spraying to mark his territory both outdoors and in your home.
- Eliminating roaming in search of females. If allowed to run loose, he may fight with other males, be injured, killed by automobiles, or get lost.
- Greatly reducing the medical costs related to treating abscesses or wound injuries.
- Helping to control the pet population crisis by avoiding unwanted pregnancies.
- Prolonging life expectancy. Statistics reveal that the average life span of an unaltered male cat is 6 years. This average can more than double if you have your cat neutered.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Neutering your pet will not cause him or her to get fat or lazy. Older, less active cats may experience weight gain that can be controlled by proper diet and exercise.
- Neutering your pet will NOT cause a personality change except to make him or her a calmer, more devoted pet.
- Surgical risk is very slight due to modern anesthesia and techniques, but there is ALWAYS some SMALL risk when an anesthetic is used.
- Surgery is performed painlessly while your pet is under general anesthesia. Post-surgical pain can be managed with medication.