

*With your help and greater community awareness, BFAB can make a difference!*

### **What age should a cat be spayed or neutered?**

For maximum health and social benefits, all kittens should be spayed or neutered before they reach sexual maturity.

However, it is never too late to prevent future unwanted kittens by spaying and neutering adult cats.

Kittens can be spayed/neutered when they weigh 2 pounds or at 12 - 14 weeks of age. Early-age spaying/neutering not only guarantees no unwanted kittens, but also prevents the development of antisocial behaviours associated with feline sexual maturity such as spraying urine and wandering.

Many people have been surprised at finding out that their 5 month old kitten is pregnant with a litter of kittens of her own!

The failure to spay and neuter has resulted in cruelty in neighbourhoods with too many unwanted cats.



With more than 400 cats being surrendered to the SPCA annually, they cannot possibly re-home them all.

### **What are the risks of having my cat spayed/neutered?**

There are no known long-term risks.

As with any surgery, there are some risks associated with anesthesia and the actual surgical procedure which your vet can explain to you. Generally, however, complications are minimal and rare.

The benefits of having your cat spayed/neutered—preventing unwanted pregnancies, preventing antisocial behaviours and reducing the risks of a number of diseases—far outweigh the risks.

### **What is the procedure?**

Spaying a female cat involves the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus (through a small incision on the side or the belly) while the cat is under general anesthetic. Domestic cats have removable stitches; BFAB cats receive dissolvable stitches so the animal can be released.

Neutering a male cat is also carried out under general anesthetic and involves the removal of the testes through a small incision in the scrotum. There are no stitches.



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BFAB's CAT FACTS

## **Spay / Neuter Your Cat**



*Be responsible... do your part to help stop the cycle of unwanted cats!*

BFAB's CAT FACTS

# Why Spay/Neuter Your Cat?

## Why spay or neuter?

There are a number of very good reasons to have your cat spayed or neutered. Here are just a few.....

- Starting as early as 5 months of age, a female typically has 3 litters of 3 - 5 kittens per year. A male can visit 6 females, fathering 18 kittens, per night! As most cats live at least 10 years and some over 20 years ... you do the math!
- Unneutered males spray and are noisy when mating. They are also more aggressive and likely to fight.
- Cats that are not spayed or neutered are at higher risk of cancer and other diseases of the reproductive organs.



## Why should I neuter my male cat?

- Unneutered male cats are more likely to exhibit unwanted behaviours such as spray-marking territories (including inside the house), urinating on the carpet, wandering, getting into fights with other cats, being more aggressive with people and being less affectionate than neutered male cats. Once neutered, a male cat is much more likely to tame.
- Because of these behaviours, they are at higher risk of injury, being run over and contracting feline-specific diseases such as FIV and Feline Leukemia Virus. ***Please note that other cats are at risk for these diseases, NOT people.***
- Moreover, female cats need male cats to have kittens so there is no question that both male and female cats should be neutered/spayed.

***Help stop the cycle of unwanted cats!***

## Why should I spay or neuter my indoor cat?

- There is still a risk of unwanted pregnancies; even indoor-only cats sometimes escape.
- You don't want your unneutered indoor male cat to spray-mark his territory – your house!
- Your unsprayed indoor female cat 'in season' will call for a mate ... loudly and often, attracting local unneutered male cats who may then mark this territory and fight.
- There is NO truth to the old myth that female cats should be allowed to have one litter of kittens before being spayed. A female cat does NOT benefit from having a litter or coming into season before being spayed.

