

Facts and Myths About Neutering

Myth: *My cat will be embarrassed if he's neutered!*

Fact: We tend to anthropomorphize our pets, which leads to these types of conclusions. Most of the time, we tend to think that we would be embarrassed if this were done to us. This may be the case, but most assuredly, your cat will not care.

Myth: *I heard neutering makes them less active, but I want an active cat!*

Fact: Studies have shown that neutering greatly decreases the development of aggressive behaviors in cats. Neutering cats does tend to "slow them down," but not to the extent that they lose their enthusiasm for playing or normal hunting-type cat behaviors. Rest be assured, your cat will still be able to do all the things he is used to doing.

Your cat's surgery appointment is scheduled for:

Please have him here by 8 AM on that date. He can have as much water as he wants, but no food after 8 PM the night before.

Because the procedure does not involve abdominal surgery, he will be able to go home the afternoon of the procedure, after 3:45 PM.

Costs and Explanations

Cat Neuter

less than 7 mos	\$176.20
7 mos or older	\$196.20

All expenses are expected to be paid in full at the time of discharge. Prices are subject to periodic increases.

Explanation of Costs

Our charges include a significant discount. This discount is our donation to helping fight pet overpopulation. Normal surgical time charges are around \$4 per minute; nearly 100% of these charges are discounted.

We aggressively use pain control on our neuters. Each cat receives pre-operative anti-inflammatories and opioids to keep them comfortable.

Our clinic staffs two technicians to assist the doctor in surgery, giving us more eyes, ears, and hands to manage our patients. Including the surgeon, there are three highly-trained professionals present completely devoted to the well-being of your cat.

We are completely aware that there are low-cost options for this procedure in the Twin Ports. You have the right to know that there is an association between cost of care and quality of that care. We believe anesthesia and surgery are not casual medical procedures, and no clinic should ever sacrifice quality of care for volume. When your cat is under anesthesia, 100% of our focus is on his well-being and the prevention of complications.



GRAND AVENUE
VETERINARY CLINIC

Neutering Your Cat



Serving the healthcare needs of pets and their families in West Duluth and the Arrowhead region since 1985.

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There is a fair amount of confusion about the merits and drawbacks to neutering a male cat. However, it will be one of the most important decisions you'll ever make for your pet. Because of this, we at Two Harbors Veterinary Clinic hope you'll take this information into account.

SHOULD MY CAT BE NEUTERED?

The only time your cat should not be neutered is if you absolutely know you are going to breed him. Millions of animals are euthanized year after year simply because there is no home for them. They sit for months in shelters hoping for a chance at life, and unfortunately there aren't enough people like you out there that are willing to take them home. Also, an un-neutered male cat can breed several females in a short amount of time, which can exponentially worsen the overpopulation problem.

Probably the only time a male cat should be bred is if it is a purebred. This means you have documentation certifying the cat is a purebred. Otherwise, there are plenty of "generic" domestic cats out there, and another litter will do nothing for the overpopulation problem. We invite you to visit the Duluth City Animal Shelter to see the results of people failing to have their cats fixed.

Many owners of male cats who hesitate to have them neutered do so for concern over the cat's psyche. In fact, it is very common to identify with our pets, and thus we choose not to have him neutered because, "we wouldn't want it done to us."

However, cats have far more things to worry about than the appearance of their back end.

Consider the following benefits to sterilization of your male cat:

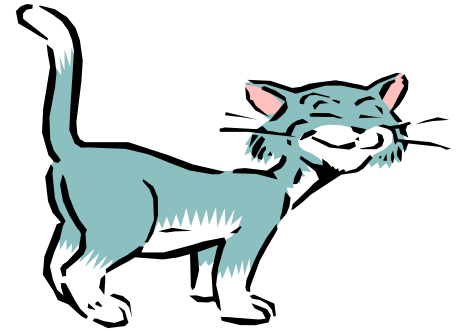
- **Behavior Modification:** Male cat that have been neutered will be far less likely to mark with urination. Neutering also will also eliminate the strong smell of intact male cat urine. Getting that particular smell out of rugs is borderline impossible. More importantly, the elimination of testosterone from their system will often calm them down and make them less aggressive and territorial. Also, an intact male cat has a tendency to wander. This leads to an increased risk for things like being hit by a car, or being attacked by anything from another cat to wild animals.
- **Health Reasons:** As in females, neutering a male cat will reduce the risk of some very serious diseases, mostly associated with testosterone-induced behavior. A recent study showed a significant decrease in the occurrence of abscess in neutered male cats, as well as asthma and gingivitis. Finally, the elimination of the need to breed will eliminate a major infection source of Feline Leukemia, probably the most common fatal infectious disease we see in cats.

If you still have any doubt as to whether or not your cat should be neutered, you need to ask yourself one question: is there a reason it should not be sterilized? Unless your cat is a purebred and you are prepared to cope with the challenges of owning an intact male cat, neutering will make you life infinitely easier.

WHEN SHOULD MY CAT BE STERILIZED?

Your cat should be neutered or spayed between four and six months of age. Neutering before puberty will almost always keep them from starting to urine mark. We often recommend scheduling the procedure one week after the last set of kitten shots are given.

It is important to note that any cat at any age can be sterilized. There is no "window of opportunity" that can be missed.



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