

# MINTLAW VET SURGERY



Dunshillock Mintlaw AB42 4JN



## NEUTERING CATS

We recommend that all cats which are not to be used for breeding should be neutered. There are several health benefits in doing so, and these are outlined below.

### MALES (TOMS)

Entire male cats are very prone to wandering great distances to find a mate, and are therefore at greater risk of accidents on the roads. They also tend to be very territorial – this can be expressed by scent marking of their areas by urine spraying, or by fighting with any competitor cats. Obviously, having a cat scent mark your property/furniture/clothes is very unpleasant, and best avoided. In fights, cats can create nasty wounds with their teeth and claws, often resulting in nasty wounds or abscesses, which then require veterinary attention.

Remember that cats can carry a variety of diseases, especially viruses, which are spread in saliva and blood eg feline leukaemia or FIV (cat AIDS). These can be transmitted in fighting.

For these reasons, we recommend that your male cat is castrated around 6 months of age. He is admitted for the day only, has a general anaesthetic, and usually, a quick surgery. There are no stitches required. The risks associated are minimal – there is always a risk of anaesthetic, there is a tiny risk of bleeding problems and, very rarely, there can be a wound problem afterwards. With these factors in mind, your cat can live a longer, happier life if he is castrated!

### FEMALES

The obvious benefit in having your female cat spayed is to prevent her from having any unwanted litters of kittens. A cat in season usually has a persistent, loud, yowling behaviour, known as calling, which can last for a few days, and is a frequent cause of people ringing the emergency service, thinking that their cat is in severe pain! During this time, the female will often wander away in search of a mate, putting herself at risk of injury. There are other health benefits in having your cat spayed – it removes the risk of infection in the womb, removes the risk of complications during kitting, and reduces the risk of her developing mammary tumours. Add to these that you won't have any unwanted, often strong smelling, gentlemen callers, and you can see the benefits for yourself!

When she is around six months old, she comes in for the day only, and has her ovaries and womb removed through an incision in her left side (usually, sometimes underneath). The stitches are removed after 10 days. The risks are minimal – again, there is the risk of anaesthetic, and always a small risk of bleeding. There can be wound problems afterwards, especially if the patient isn't too impressed with her stitches, and interrupts the healing process!

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