Cat Neutering



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Just like his big cat cousins, your male kitten will have a natural urge to spray and mark his territory. And a female kitten “in season” will probably be noisy and restless, squirming and rolling around on the floor. Neutering will help prevent this behaviour. Even better, it also has long-term health benefits.

What is Neutering/Castration in Kittens?

If you love cats, you should be familiar with the term neutering. In its most accepted sense, neutering refers to the medical process of removing an animal’s reproductive organs, either to their entirety, or a considerable part of them.

The term neutering is derived from the Latin term ‘neuter’, which implied ‘of neither sex’. This process of surgically removing the reproductive organ is often referred to as ‘fixing’, and is considered among the most common forms of animal sterilization.

Feline neutering or cat sterilization, however, is one of the most common, and simple surgical procedures that are undertaken by veterinarian doctors. It is preferred by most cat parents as feline neutering requires minimal recovery time. Most neutered kittens are usually discharged simply after a few hours of observation following the procedure. Neutering does not result in any bleeding or swelling, and most kittens are able to return to

their usual life within days of the procedure. The process of neutering a cat is different based on the cat's gender. Usually, getting a male cat castrated is known as neutering, while the cat sterilization of a female kitten is regarded as spaying.

Most animal shelters, rescue groups and humane societies undertake cat castration operations, and request cat parents to get their furballs neutered or spayed. This is usually done to avoid unwanted pregnancies in cats, leading to unwanted litters and overpopulation of cats that are left behind in animal shelters or rescue homes.

Currently, several countries have made it mandatory for pet owners to get their fur kids neutered before they are adopted and taken to new homes. Early cat neutering is effective in the prevention of unwanted litter problems.

Neutering (Male) vs Spaying (Female)

Neutering, or getting a male kitten castrated involves the surgical removal of the kitten's testicles. Kitten neutering is a common practice for domestic and stray kittens both, and are neutered for birth control and to avoid unwanted litters, as well as for behaviour modification. Most male cats are surgically neutered through the process of vasectomy, where an incision is made on the vas deferens, or the duct that connects the testes with the penis, and are tied. The process of vasectomy is more delicate than castration, and is effective in preventing sperm cells from travelling from the testes, and eliminating the ability of male cats to reproduce.

The other common way of feline castration involves the surgical process of opening the scrotum with a small incision to bring out the testicles. The veterinarian then uses sutures to tie the cords before the testicle is cut free and removed. Usually, the incision on the skin of the scrotum is made so small that no stitches are required, and completely heals within two weeks from the procedure. The male kitten to be neutered is kept under anaesthesia while the surgery is performed.

Spaying, or castration of female kittens is carried out by removing the ovaries and the uterus. Spaying too requires general anaesthesia before a laparoscopic surgery can be carried out. The veterinarian performs the surgery by making a small incision in the kitten's abdomen, below the umbilicus. The uterus and the ovaries are then brought out from the incision before they are surgically removed. Though it is completely safe, the surgical incision requires several layers of sutures to be closed. The incision starts to heal within the first week of the procedure, and the sutures can be removed within 7 to 10 days. Spaying, however, is a more complicated procedure than cat neutering, and answers the question of whether to spay vs neuter cat.

How does castration affect kitten behaviours?

Neutering or cat castration, as a surgical process completely eliminates the male cat's ability to reproduce. Furthermore, it also removes the cat's ability to naturally produces testosterone, the male sex hormone. So, castration in male kittens has a major impact on the behaviours in kittens that are driven by male hormones, which are also known as sexually dimorphic behaviours. Usually the cat's temperament, personality and training remain unaffected by castration as the male sex hormone has little or no influence over these behaviours. Early cat neutering in male cats can intercept the development of secondary sexual characteristics in kittens, such as glands at the dorsal part of the kitten's

tail, penile bards, large jowls and so on.

On the other hand, spaying a female kitten result in reducing their sexual drive or libido. Without the sexual drive, female cats are less likely to respond to mating calls or look for a mate. Cats that have been spayed are less likely to go in heat and attract male cats, and are generally quieter in nature. Spayed cats are therefore easier to domesticate and deal with, and are usually gentler and more affectionate in nature.

Benefits of Kitten Castration

If you are wondering “should I neuter my cat?”, mentioned below are several benefits of kitten castration, such as:

- **Population Control:**

  Allowing your little munchkin to naturally breed can not just deteriorate their health, but also lead to pet overpopulation. Some cats face severe health complications giving birth or while nursing. However, without the ability to procreate, the cat population can be effectively kept in check, and also cut down on additional costs of maintaining the litter.

- **Health:**

  Other than avoiding health complications while giving birth or nursing, spaying your kitten can play a vital role in keeping them healthier. As spaying involves complete removal of the uterus and the ovaries, the fur kids that have been spayed are unlikely to contract diseases like uterine infections, ovarian cysts, as well as cancer of the reproductive tract. It also helps in resolving the issue of urine spraying, which is common for female cats in heat.

- **Aggression:**

  Kitten castration is extremely effective against aggression in cats. As the process of cat neutering completely cuts off the production of testosterone in male cats, it significantly affects all sexually dimorphic behaviours, which also include aggression. Neutering reduces the tendency to fight or roam in almost 90% of cats. Furthermore, spaying female cats cause them to become quieter, more loving and affectionate.

- **Physical Changes:**

  Cat sterilization does not impact the physical development of cats, including their height, weight and urethral size. However, neutering can have a greater impact on the development of secondary sexual characteristics in cats, including penile bards, large jowls, and glands at the dorsal end of the cat’s tail.

The right age for neutering

While early neutering has its share of benefits, it can also pose serious health risks, such as abnormal bone growth, which can deter the kitten’s physical structure. Though cat castration can be carried out at any point in time, most veterinarians believe it is best to get your kitten neutered once it turns five or six months of age, which is the minimum age

to neuter cat. However, all cats are unique, so it is important to consult your veterinarian doctor before booking an appointment for neutering your cat.

Care Tips after kitten castration

Though the recovery period following the neutering or spaying procedure is minimal, here are some tips with which you can ensure your furry little munchkin is able to recover and heal itself at an even faster rate. These tips include:

- After the procedure, it is important for your cat to rest to promote healing. So it is important to keep them away from environments they can get excited by, such as children and traffic.
- Your furry munchkin should be restricted to a smaller area with easy access to food, water and their litterbox, at least for 10 days.
- Make sure your cat is kept in a peaceful environment away from loud noise and sound. Keep your cat from participating in too much physical activity, like jumping on furniture.
- Cats after neuter can become gentle and calmer. However, following neutering, male cats can show signs of aggression as a remnant of their male sex hormone.
- You can care for your cat after neuter by making sure it has a comfortable place for cat after neuter sleeping. A soft pillow or a blanket is perfect for the after-neuter care cat.

Kitten Neutering FAQs

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1. **How often should you feed a kitten?**

   Kittens should be fed frequently in small amounts throughout the day. For kittens over 2 months old, kitten food can be given 4 to 5 times a day. From 6 to 12 months old, the number of meals can be reduced to 2 to 4 times a day

2. **What should your kitten drink?**

   It is important to keep your kitten hydrated, especially if you are feeding them dry food. Kittens do not need milk once they have been weaned off. Instead of milk, it is best to give them clean and fresh water to drink. Ensure that your kitten has fresh water to drink wherever and whenever they need it. Generally, you should start giving them water to drink once you have started giving them a little solid food. Give them fresh, clean water in a shallow bowl. It is best to place it in places where they like to relax. You should not place it in the same place as where they eat.

3. When should you switch kittens to kitten food?

Besides baby cat food, kittens can try small bites of solid food to familiarise themselves with it. At 2 months old, they should be weaned off mother’s milk and switch from baby cat food to wet kitten food.

Foods to avoid

Although you may have good intentions, some human foods are not recommended for cats. Human foods are high in calories, and lack the essential nutrients that cats need. Some of the food that we eat can be very harmful to cats. This includes onions and garlic, milk and dairy products, alcohol, grapes and raisins, caffeine, chocolate, raw eggs and meats, and fat trimmings and bones.

4. Can kittens eat human food?

Feeding kittens human food can have detrimental effects as kittens have very different dietary requirements compared to humans. Kittens require about 40 essential nutrients to deliver complete nutrition, whether the food is dry, wet, or semi-moist.

Since kittens are carnivores, animal meat is one of the safest human foods to give them as they rely on nutrients found in animal products. There are 11 essential amino acids for kittens that must be supplied in their diet:

- Arginine
- Histidine
- Isoleucine
- Leucine
- Lysine
- Methionine
- Phenylalanine
- Taurine
- Threonine
- Tryptophan
- Valine

These essential amino acids, along with other essential nutrients, are best supplied by animal meat and organs (liver, heart, and kidney). Fish, meat, and poultry are the best choices as they provide all the protein and essential nutrients your kitten needs. It can be minced, ground, or blended so your kitten can eat it easily. However, it is not recommended to feed your kitten too much fish such as tuna and salmon. These fish contain high levels of mercury and can cause mercury poisoning (dizziness, loss of balance and coordination). Make sure everything is cooked thoroughly to destroy any bacteria or parasites before feeding your kitten.

Besides meat, kittens also eat plants occasionally for roughage or fibre. The recommended vegetables for your kitten are carrots, broccoli, and spinach that have been steamed or boiled. These vegetables are also a source for vitamins and minerals. Similarly, make sure that all vegetables are washed and cleaned thoroughly before cooking. Avoid feeding your kitten raw vegetables as it cannot be digested and can cause digestion problems.

How to feed a kitten up to 4 weeks old

As kittens grow, they require different types of food and different ways of feeding to support its growth and development. When kittens are born, they obtain all the nutrition they need from their mother’s milk, which is the best baby cat food. It is important to ensure that your kittens and the mother cat are safe and away from any disturbances. This allows them to feed peacefully. Keep your kittens warm and place them in a comfortable position on their stomach as they feed. After 4 weeks, they should be weaned off and introduced to food for kittens.

How to feed a kitten from 4 weeks to 4 months old

Once your kitten reaches 4 weeks old, it may start showing an interest in solid food! You can start to gradually wean off your kitten and introduce them to a bit of solid kitten food. Dry kitten food can be mixed with water so that it is soft enough for kittens to eat easily. Wet kitten food can also be used. Place the food in a shallow dish or bowl to get them used to good eating habits. It is essential to learn how to feed a kitten properly with the right food to help them grow happily and healthily.

How to make kitten food

Homemade kitten food that is prepared using natural and fresh ingredients is a great way to introduce your kitten to different tastes and textures. This helps in their growth and development. Since kittens are carnivores, they can eat most kinds of meat like chicken, beef, and fish that have been minced or ground and then cooked.

Kittens require 4 times more protein than humans. In order to fulfil this need, homemade kitten food needs to contain at least 70 g of protein per 1000 kcal of metabolisable energy (ME). This is equal to roughly 220 g of chicken meat, or 320 g of fish. The meat should be cooked, either by steaming or boiling it. However, if you don’t know how to make kitten food, or don’t have the time to - don’t worry! Whiskas® kitten food is the best kitten food that covers all of your kitten’s nutritional needs in a wide range of delicious flavours

5. What should you feed a fussy kitten?

Many kittens have a preference for certain textures and flavours. Try to feed your kitten a mixture of wet and dry kitten food. You can also try the wide variety of Whiskas® kitten food to find your kitten’s favourite food.

6. What is the ideal diet for a kitten?

Kittens need a complete diet with the right balance of proteins, essential fatty acids, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins. Whiskas® offers a wide range of kitten food with all the nutrition they need.

7. What food should you feed a newborn kitten?

Mother’s milk is the best kitten food (below 2 months) as it contains DHA which helps in the early stages of development. The colostrum is also very high in protein and helps to strengthen a kitten’s immune system.

8. ## What do I need to know after a cat vaccine?

   As important as cat vaccinations are, it can leave your furry munchkin distressed, anxious and confused. To help your cat once it has been vaccinated, you can provide them with a warm, cosy bed to rest and recover, ensure they have easy access to food and water to stay well-fed and hydrated, and avoid getting them excited or riled up for nothing. With sufficient rest, love and care, your cat can get over the distress of vaccination in no time!

9. ## Is a vaccine necessary for cats?

   Most cats have a higher resistance to diseases. However, in their infancy, cats can often be susceptible to various diseases, and to avoid any severe health risks that can prove fatal, certain preventive measures must be adopted. Cat vaccinations are one such measure that can significantly lower the chances of your furry pal getting sick. In addition, vaccinations are also important as they play a vital role in preventing the transmission of viruses from one cat to another, or to humans.

10. ## What are the important vaccines for cats?

    To avoid any severe health complications, most cats are required to receive cat injections with core vaccines, including rabies, feline rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus, and feline panleukopenia vaccines. The other non-core vaccinations your cat might require are the feline leukemia virus, chlamydophila felis, and bordetella bronchiseptica vaccinations, as well as cat booster vaccines.

11. ## What is a 3-in-1 vaccine for cats?

    Of the cat injections that are recommended for cats, the 3-in-1 vaccine is one of the most essential vaccines that protect your cute furball against infectious diseases. The 3-in-1 vaccine, as the name suggests, is responsible for safeguarding against three diseases, namely - feline calicivirus, feline panleukopenia and feline viral rhinotracheitis. The 3-in-1 vaccine in cats is usually administered through injections.

12. ## What vaccines does a cat need?

    Cats often need vaccines including rabies, tricat and tetracat, as well as the vaccines required for specific diseases. Other than the panleukopenia (or feline distemper), feline calicivirus and feline viral rhinotracheitis, your little pal might also require additional vaccination shots to prevent common diseases like feline leukaemia and bordetella. The purpose of cat vaccine is to help develop a stronger immune system and ward off potentially harmful diseases.

13. ## How long can a cat go without pooping after diarrhoea?

    If the constipation is mild, regardless of after diarrhoea or in general, it should be fine. But if your cat doesn’t pass faeces for 48-72 hours, consult a vet.

14. ## Can a cat have diarrhoea with bowel obstruction?

    Diarrhoea is one of the symptoms of intestinal bowel obstruction. Partial obstruction causes diarrhoea while complete obstruction causes inability to pass stool and gas. It

is an extremely serious condition and requires immediate medical attention.

15. **How long does it take for a cat to get Un-constipated?**

    Depending on the cause, it can take anything between a few days to 12 weeks. Usually, a diet change takes time to show effect, whereas medications can give quick relief.

16. **Can a cat be constipated and still have diarrhoea?**

    When a cat has megacolon, they can have stool build-up in their colon causing constipation. However, sometime your fur kiddos can leak a little lose stool from around the hard faeces, which an be misinterpreted as diarrhoea. If you notice constipation and diarrhoea at the same time in your furball, take it to a vet without ado.

17. **What are healthy foods for cats with constipation?**

    Cat food rich in fibres and probiotics can be good for cats with constipation. Also, if your cat has constipation, feed it wet food instead of dry food as that will help increase their water intake.

18. **Does neutering calm a kitten down?**

    Spaying female kittens can reduce their libido or sex drive. Without adequate sex drive, the female cat is unlikely to respond to mating calls or look for potential mates in heat. So, neutering can calm down female kittens, making them more affectionate and loving.

19. **What happens if you neuter a kitten too early?**

    Though early cat neutering can be helpful in population control and avoiding unwanted litters, if carried out at a drastically young age, neutering can delay the closure of bone plates, affecting the kitten’s growth. Feline babies neutered too early also can lead to a narrower urethra, increasing the risks of urinary blockages.

20. **Do kittens change after being neutered?**

    Behaviours, such as their personality, training, and preferences are unlikely to change in cats after neuter. Neutering male fur babies cut them off from the source of testosterone, the male sex hormone, which can result in a change in behaviours that are driven by the sex hormones, such as roaming and aggression.

21. **What is the best age to neuter a male kitten?**

    Spaying and neutering for cats are best done between the age of 5 to 6 months, the perfect age to neuter cat. However, no two cats are alike, so it is always wiser to consult your veterinarian and seek professional advice on when to get your cat neutered or spayed. Make sure your kitten receives the after-neuter care cat it deserves following the procedure.

22. **What age do kittens drink water?**

Newborn kittens at their infancy do not need to be given any additional water as they are entirely dependent on their mother's milk for nutrition and moisture. However, kittens over 4 weeks of age must drink at least 70 ml water regularly.

23. **Do 4 week old kittens eat solid food?**

Yes, kittens at 4 weeks of age must be gradually transitioned to solid food. However, dry cat food or crunchy cat treats might not be the best idea. Instead, try feeding your weaning kitten home cooked meals or wet cat food in smaller bite-sized portions.

24. **What do you feed a 4 week old kitten?**

Kittens aged 4 weeks or more should be prepared for the transitive process of weaning, and must be gradually introduced to solid food. Home cooked meals with low salt, oil and spices, as well as commercially available wet cat food are perfect for weaning kittens.

25. **How do you introduce solid food to kittens?**

Wondering when should kittens be weaned? It is unwise to suddenly introduce your weaning kitten to solid food. Instead, your little furball must undergo a gradual transition process of switching from milk to solid food, known as weaning, and is a crucial event in a feline's life.

26. **How much to feed a kitten?**

Generally, you should feed a kitten until its belly feels full. For newborn kittens, it is recommended to feed kittens 4 to 5 pouches of Whiskas® wet kitten food.

27. **How do I store kitten food?**

Bags of dry kitten and cat food should be stored in a cool, dry place. For wet kitten food that has been opened, store it in an airtight container and place it in the refrigerator.

28. **How do I feed a fussy kitten?**

Many kittens have a preference for certain textures and flavours. Try to feed your kitten a mixture of wet and dry kitten food. You can also try the wide variety of Whiskas® kitten food to find your kitten’s favourite food.

29. **How often to feed kittens?**

It is recommended to feed kittens twice a day, either with dry food, wet food, or both. You can follow our feeding guide that can be found on every Whiskas® kitten food bag.

30. **What do kittens eat?**

Most first-time owners may be wondering; what do kittens eat? From birth to 4 weeks old, kittens will have milk from their mothers. After that, they can start trying solid food. If you're wondering on how to feed a kitten during this time, consider mixing some dry food with kitten milk or water, or use wet food so they can eat it easily.

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