



Feline Ovariohysterectomy/Neuter/Declaw

The decision to spay or neuter your pet should be taken seriously. You will want to consider many factors in making this decision.

Some important benefits of the surgeries to consider are:

- lessens the chance of certain types of reproductive tract diseases including cancer
- eliminates heat cycles in females
- decreases tendency to roam
- prevents unwanted litters

Factors to consider when deciding whether or not to declaw your cat:

- personal beliefs
- tendencies towards scratching/destructiveness
- indoor or outdoor pet

These surgeries are performed frequently and complications are few. However, we would like to stress that no procedure is "routine". Each pet is an unique individual and may respond differently to anesthesia and surgery. To detect and prevent problems we:

- require vaccinations be current
- require that a comprehensive examination has been performed within the last 6 months
- use an EKG cardiac monitor, a doppler blood pressure monitor and a pulse oximeter during ovariohysterectomy surgeries
- For ovariohysterectomies: place an intravenous catheter and administer IV fluids to maintain blood pressure and hydration.
- use sterile procedures before and during surgery
- use gas anesthesia
- use a warm water circulating heating blanket to keep your pet's body temperature as close to normal as possible
- have a Certified Veterinary Technician constantly monitoring your pet's condition during surgery and monitoring for any complications while your pet is recovering
- bandage paws after declaw surgery and require an overnight stay to monitor for post-op bleeding the following day
- routinely use pain medications for all surgical patients, including a local ring analgesic block for declaws and incisionals blocks for neuters and ovariohysterectomies.
- place absorbable stitches under the skin which will dissolve on their own
- trim nails at no additional charge
- recommend screening tests
 - Feline Leukemia Test
 - Limited Blood Evaluation and Limited Chemistry Profile - further evaluates your pet's health by checking for anemia, dehydration, infection, clotting problems, liver and kidney disorders.
 - Urinalysis & Complete Chemistry Profile in addition to above tests are recommended for pets older than three years of age.
- make every effort to ensure your pet a comfortable stay at our hospital

We recommend that your pet be spayed/neutered at six months of age. The declaw surgery can be performed at three months of age. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call.

