



## Cat Neutering

Both male and female cats should be considered for neutering. Female cats may present the problem of an unwanted litter and also, when in season, can attract many male cats to your property.

Unneutered male cats can be aggressive, tend to wander from home and also mark their territory by urinating—a smell which is difficult to eliminate. Your cat should be neutered as early as possible—ideally between four and five months old. Despite the popular myth, there is no good reason for allowing a cat to produce a litter and the normal health risks associated with birth and pregnancy can actually be harmful. Neutering or 'spaying' a female animal involves removing the womb and ovaries. Males are castrated - the testicles are removed. Both operations are straightforward. They are carried out under general anaesthetic and the animals recover quickly.

## Feline Leukaemia Virus - *is your cat protected?*

One of the commonest causes of premature death in cats is the Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV). The virus is found in the saliva of infected cats and is mainly transmitted by direct contact from one cat to another e.g. by licking or biting. Whilst the virus does on occasion cause true Leukaemia, in many cases the effects are more related to suppression of the cat's immune system, very sadly leaving it fatally exposed to infections that a healthy cat would normally recover from. FeLV infections may be an underlying cause of anaemia and various forms of cancer in cats. The disease is however, quite unrelated to any human condition and quite specific to cats. The good news is that there are now very effective vaccines against the virus. Vaccination can be started at any age and your cat can be vaccinated at the same time as the annual health check and other immunisations.

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