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Castration in Cats

General Information

Castration (neutering) is the surgical removal of the testicles. When a cat is castrated before sexual maturity (6-8 months of age), the sexual characteristics fail to develop and the cat is sterile (unable to impregnate a female). Sexually-driven behavior, such as roaming, fighting, and urine spraying, is usually either eliminated or markedly reduced. Neutered males may still enjoy hunting. Neutering also reduces the strong urine odor associated with male cats.

Surgical Procedure

Your pet will be given a preoperative physical examination to help ensure his safety during anesthesia and surgery. The operation is performed under general anesthesia. Recovery is generally uneventful, the hospital stay is short, and aftercare is minimal.

Important Considerations Before Surgery

- All vaccinations should be current before surgery.
- Your cat should be free of intestinal parasites (worms).
- Do not feed your cat for approximately 15 hours before admittance for surgery. (No food after 6 PM the night before- water is O.K.)
- Some care and recovery time is required after surgery.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *Will it make my cat fat and lazy?* No. Obesity is caused by excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.
- *Will it change his disposition, personality, or intelligence?* Cats' personalities do not fully develop until about 1 yr. of age. If there is a personality change after neutering at an early age, it most likely would have occurred without surgery.