

Neutering your male cat

Un-neutered tom cats tend to roam at night enlarging and marking their territory. This often results in them fighting with other tom cats and being involved in road traffic accidents.



The jargon

Neutering is the general term used to describe the removal of a pet's reproductive organs.

Castration is the surgical removal of a male animal's testicles.

The benefits of castration

Castrating your tom cat significantly reduces male urine marking behaviour.

It also reduces fighting behaviour by over 80% which significantly reduces cat bite abscesses and the spread of FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus).

When to castrate?

The surgical veterinary team at UCD recommends that male cats should be neutered at 4-5 months of age. Early neutering also ensures that your cat's urine does not develop that pungent, unpleasant and hard to remove "un-neutered" odour.

Are there any disadvantages?

You will need to reduce the volume of food your cat is fed (as recommended by your local veterinary practice). If your cat is an outdoor cat, it may be worthwhile investing in a tag that says "please don't feed me, I'm on a diet". This will prevent neighbours from feeding him.

The cost

The exact cost should be discussed with your local veterinary practice.

Common myths

"Neutering is cruel"

Nobody wants to put their pet through an operation but the only way we can prevent the ever growing population of unwanted and feral cats in this country is to neuter our pets, not to mention the health benefits listed above.

"The operation will make my cat fat and lazy"

Correct nutritional adjustments (as advised by your local veterinary practice after neutering) and adequate exercise will prevent your cat from gaining weight.

"My cat never goes outside"

Neutering is not just about preventing unwanted kittens, as mentioned above un-neutered tom cat urine really smells unpleasant!

"It will change my cat's personality"

A cat's personality will not be altered by castration. He will be free from sexual frustration and therefore calmer and more content not to wander. It also usually reduces aggressive male hormone driven behaviours.

Source of information: www.spayweekireland.ie