



## Feline Castration Surgery

In male animals, castration (neutering) involves the removal of testicles.

The procedure in cats typically utilizes an injectable anesthetic/sedative/analgesic (pain reliever) combination to induce complete anesthesia. This takes 15-20 minutes to take effect. An IV catheter would be placed at this time if chosen. Inhalation (gas) anesthetic is used if needed.

The hair over the scrotum is clipped or plucked and the skin is scrubbed with surgical soap to disinfect the area. A small incision is made over each testicle using a surgical blade or laser. The testicles are exteriorized through the incisions. The spermatic cords are secured using suture and/or a method where a knot is made using the cord itself. Because the incisions are so small there is no need to close the incisions using suture. The cat is given a reversal drug so he will wake up in a very short time (usually 5-10 minutes). The procedure takes approximately 10-15 minutes, including the time for preparation and anesthesia.

The *benefits* of this surgery include: reduced risk of testicular cancer, elimination of the ability to impregnate female cats (can take up to 30 days for full sterility in mature cats), decreased urine spraying and roaming behavior.

The overall *risks* of this surgery in a healthy young cat are low. The major risks are those associated with anesthesia (drug reactions, regurgitation, aspiration pneumonia and cardiac arrest) which can lead to death, bleeding (hemorrhage) ranging from mild to severe, postoperative infection and swelling at the site. The overall complication rate is low, but serious complications can result in death or the need for additional surgery. There is an increased risk of bleeding after surgery in adult or larger cats.

The post-operative home care requires reduced activity for a few days and the incisions should be inspected daily for signs of redness, discharge, swelling or pain. The patient also needs to be prevented from licking at the incision.

In general patients go home the same day.

### ***Surgical/Anesthetic Options: Please initial your choice for each option.***

**Pre-Anesthetic Blood Work:** Complete blood count and chemistry panel to evaluate for any pre-existing conditions that may increase your pet's anesthetic or surgical risk. This is strongly recommended for ALL patients undergoing anesthesia and surgery.

\_\_\_\_\_ I accept pre-anesthetic lab work (cost: \$66.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ I decline pre-anesthetic lab work and understand that my pet may have underlying disease that may go Undetected

**IV Catheter & Fluid Therapy:** An IV catheter gives direct access to your pet's bloodstream during surgery and can be used to administer medications and emergency drugs should the need arise. It allows us to give fluids throughout the surgery, which can help with hydration and blood pressure regulation, and also ensures all organs have enough blood flow during anesthesia. This is strongly recommended for ALL patients undergoing anesthesia and surgery. Another option is to give fluids under the skin that will be absorbed throughout the day.

\_\_\_\_\_ I accept use of an IV catheter and fluid therapy (cost: \$48.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ I accept SQ fluids under the skin

\_\_\_\_\_ I decline an IV catheter and fluid therapy and understand that this may increase my pets



Veterinarian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian/Technician Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_