# Neutering Your Kitten

**What is neutering?** Neutering is the removal of the sex organs from either females (spaying) or males (castration). This prevents them from being able to produce kittens and can prevent some unwanted behaviours.

**When can we neuter kittens?**

Socialisation is key. When they are young, kittens will be very inquisitive and try to explore everything in their new environment. Making new experiences (such has being handled or hoovering) as calm and positive as possible will help encourage good behaviour as they grow. Cats like routine a consistency so try to use the same food and litter as the breeder and make any changes gradual.

**How long will the neutering procedure take?**

On the day of their procedure, we will usually get you to bring your kitten in to the practice to be admitted with one of our vets or nurses between 8:30am-9:15am (we can also offer transport from our Pickering surgery). Your kitten will have a full health check to make sure they are fit for the procedure and you will be asked a few questions about their recent health. They will then be cared for by our nurses (with lots of cuddles) as we prepare them for their surgery.

We will get you to give us a call in the afternoon on the same day of the procedure to arrange a time to collect your kitten.

**Do kittens have to be kept inside at home after their surgery?**

After their surgery, female with have stitches in their skin which will need to be kept in for at least 10 days. During this time your kitten should have minimal exercise to reduce the chance of them damaging these stitches. During this time your kitten should have minimal exercise to reduce the chance of them damaging these stitches. Male kittens usually don't have any stitches but are best kept inside for a few days so you can keep an eye on them.

**Does the surgery cause pain?**

Kittens can feel a little woozy or uncomfortable for the first couple of days after their procedure but this will be minimalised with the range of pain relief medication we can give.

**Does neutering kittens make them fat?**

As we are taking away a whole organ system that uses a lot of energy when we neuter kittens, their energy requirements will be reduced. After your kitten has been neutered we recommended feeding a diet design for neutered cats. We recommend a range of complete diets specifically designed for neutered cats from Hill's, please talk to one of our staff for advice on the best diet.

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