

## Neuter Surgery Start to Finish

**Everything you wanted to know about neutering your cat and more.**

*Stacy Hackett*

Can my cat come home the same day? He'll recover from anesthesia in about an hour. Veterinary staff will monitor him for unusual reactions or bleeding. In most cases, he can go home that evening.

When can my cat resume normal activity? Most cats recover rapidly. Some cats will eat the same day as surgery. He should be eating the next morning. Post-operative pain is rare. Most cats are back to normal within three days.

What should I look for at home? Abnormal swelling of the incision area; some swelling is normal. Bloody or thick discharge from the incision. Any foul odors from the incision area. Extreme discoloration of the area; some pink is normal. Dark red or purple are not normal. Contact your veterinarian if you see any of these conditions or if your cat does not seem to be recovering. Try to prevent your cat from licking the incision area.

Are there any risks associated with neuter surgery? Your vet takes many steps to eliminate risks during surgery. The vet will most likely perform blood tests before surgery to identify or rule out underlying health problems. During anesthesia, your cat's heart rate and breathing will be monitored closely. The surgery takes place in a sterile environment to eliminate risks of infection.

Male cats don't become pregnant. Why should I neuter my male kitten? Removing the testes also decreases the amount of testosterone. Testosterone can affect other organs besides sex organs, including the heart and prostate. Neutering reduces the chance of a male cat developing prostate cancer. Less testosterone in the male cat's body decreases aggression and fighting. Neutering can eliminate or significantly reduce spraying behaviors.

The pros of neutering your cat far outnumber the cons. Ready to schedule your kitten's surgery? Talk to your veterinarian today, or find a spay/neuter clinic near you.