

Neuter Surgery Start to Finish

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

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You've made an appointment to have your male kitten neutered, but some doubt remains. Do male cats really need to be neutered? Will the surgery cause him pain? What kind of care will he need at home? When will he be able to play again?

Put your mind at ease. Animal welfare organizations including the Humane Society of the United States, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Veterinary Information Network have answered all your questions, taking you step by step through the surgery and recovery.

What is neuter surgery?The technical term for neuter surgery is orchidectomyThe surgery is also called castrationNeuter surgery removes the testes

When should I have my cat neutered?Before puberty, when hormonal changes kick inTypically between 4 and 6 months of ageMany behavior problems can be prevented if neuters are done early

Do some veterinarians neuter sooner than 6 months of age?Yes this is called early-age neuter or pediatric neuterDone at 6 to 8 weeks of ageDone more frequently at animal shelters before adoption Helps prevent pet overpopulation

What happens during neuter surgery?Surgery takes place in a sterile environment, such as an operating roomYour cat receives general anesthesiaA small incision is made in the cats scrotumThe testes are exposedBlood vessels are clamped and tied to prevent bleedingMany vets use a surgical laser to cut the pedicle to remove the testesExternal sutures are not used, if possibleThe incision may be left open to heal naturally