



## **Why should I spay or neuter my cat?**

Spaying or neutering your cat prevents unwanted births, which helps reduce overpopulation in shelters.

In most male cats neutering (regardless of their age when neutered) reduces roaming, urine spraying, and fights with neighborhood cats. The plaintive howling of female cats in heat is eliminated. Overall, cats who are sexually intact are at greater risk of being relinquished to a shelter.

## **Will my cat's personality change after being fixed?**

Other than the previously mentioned behavior changes, spaying or neutering your cat is unlikely to change his or her basic personality, though male cats may become more docile following neutering. Cats' playfulness and general levels of activity, excitement, and vocalization do not typically change following spay/neuter surgery.

## **Will my cat gain weight after surgery?**

Both neutered males and spayed females tend to gain weight due to a decrease in roaming and other sexual behavior. However, weight gain can be prevented through proper dietary management and exercise. Physically, male cats neutered prior to puberty do not develop the large head and thick skin of intact males.

## **When should I spay/neuter my cat?**

At The Cat Clinic and Spa, we recommend spaying or neutering at 6 months. However, healthy cats as young as six weeks of age can be spayed or neutered safely. Studies have shown that cats altered at less than six months of age do not have an increased risk of physical or behavioral problems, as compared to those that undergo surgery later. Early-age spaying and neutering may prevent problem behaviors before they occur. If it hasn't already been done, spaying or neutering should be considered for any pet with a behavior problem, regardless of age. For certain behaviors, surgery may reduce or eliminate the problem, even in older cats.