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SPAYING YOUR CAT

Why should I have my cat spayed?

Neutering, or spaying, in female cats offers several advantages. Most obviously, it will prevent unplanned litters. Once a cat reaches puberty (usually around 7 months), most of the year the queen will be “in heat” for approximately one week every two to three weeks until she is mated. During “heat” she may display unsociable behavior such as loud and persistent crying and frequent rubbing and rolling on the floor. Such behavior and her scent will attract tomcats from miles around. This will be eliminated by spaying. Finally, spaying will remove the risk of uterine infection and cancer and may reduce the risk of breast cancer.

There is no medical reason for allowing your cat to have a litter before she is spayed.

When should I have my cat spayed?

In most cases, it is desirable to spay her before puberty, and it is customary to operate on kittens at an early age. The actual age chosen will depend upon the preference of your veterinarian - many individuals will spay cats at around 4-6 months old. This is the best time for spaying and will prevent the unwanted behaviors that develop after this age.

What does the operation involve?

You will need to withhold food for twelve (12) hours prior to surgery. Your pet should have free access to water during the pre-operative fasting period. Please bring her in at 8:00AM the morning of the procedure.

Your cat will then be examined and pre-anesthetic blood tests are highly recommended to be sure the kidney and liver is functioning normally. If a problem is noticed, the anesthetic protocol can be adjusted or the procedure may be put on hold for other tests to be performed.

If everything is acceptable, your pet will then be anesthetized. Most pets will have an intravenous (IV) catheter placed to administer the anesthetic and to provide fluid therapy during the procedure. IV fluids are also highly recommended to make the procedure as safe as possible. Similar to humans having surgery, IV fluids help to maintain normal blood pressure during the procedure and allow an IV access to give medications should emergency medications need to be given.

After your pet is anesthetized, a breathing tube will be placed in her trachea (windpipe). This will allow us to deliver oxygen and the gas anesthetic. The operation is performed through a relatively small incision made in the midline of the abdomen. Both ovaries are removed along with the uterus. Normally, skin stitches are used that will be removed after 10 days after the surgery. Your cat will then be

hospitalized overnight for us to monitor her recovering from the anesthesia and surgery. She will then be free to go home the next afternoon (usually between 4 to 6 PM). If you have any questions or concerns with her stay with us, do not hesitate to talk to us about it.

Are there any post-operative precautions I should take?

Your cat will likely be tired for a few days after the procedure and may not be interested in food for 24-48 hours once she is home. Please no bathing during the first 10 days until the sutures are removed and allow as much rest as possible. If she licks the incision, or if the incision appears inflamed, please call us and we may need to place an Elizabethan Collar and/or prescribe some antibiotics.

For more information, a detailed video of the procedure can also be seen in our website at morgananimalhospital.com