

Facts and Myths About Spaying

Myth: *Cats are supposed to have one litter; it's good for them.*

Fact: Mammary cancer is one of the most common types of cancers in cats, and sadly, it can be prevented almost 100% of the time by spaying before the first heat. Failure to spay until after the first heat increases the risk of breast cancer by 10%.

Myth: *Letting my cat have kittens is a good way for my family to witness the "miracle of life."*

Fact: Over 2 million cats are euthanized in shelters each year; many are kittens from litters whose owners couldn't find homes for them. Anybody considering allowing their cat to have a litter should have a plan to adopt out the kittens; otherwise the "miracle of life" may be replaced by the sadness of relinquishment.

Your cat's surgery appointment is scheduled for:

Please have her here by 8 AM on that date. She can have as much water as she wants, but no food after 8 PM the night before.

We recommend keeping your cat here overnight after surgery to ensure she is quiet during the immediate 24 hours after surgery. This period is most crucial to the healing of her incision. She will be able to go home the afternoon of the surgery.

Two Harbors Veterinary Clinic Cost and Policies for Spaying

Cat Spay

less than 8 mos.	\$188.54
older than 8 mos.	\$204.71

All expenses are expected to be paid in full at the time of discharge.

Explanation of Costs

The charges for the surgery include a discount ranging somewhere between \$100 to \$140. This is taken off the cost of our surgical charges as our donation to helping prevent the pet overpopulation problem. Normal surgical time charges are around \$3 per minute; nearly 100% of these charges are discounted.

Our clinic makes mandatory an intravenous catheter and delivery of IV fluids during gas anesthesia. We do this because it significantly decreases the risk of problems with anesthesia as well as gives us a route to deliver emergency medications should problems develop.

We aggressively use pain control on our spays. Each cat receives a pre-operative anti-inflammatory injection that will help her be more comfortable in the 24 hours after surgery. We also give a morphine-derivative injection to keep the cat comfortable when she awakens.

We invite you to compare our charges to other clinics, but when you do so, make sure to ask if they provide the same level of anesthetic management and post-operative care. We feel that we do the most we can to keep your cat safe and comfortable.

Two Harbors
Veterinary Clinic



Spaying Your Cat



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There is a fair amount of confusion about the merits and drawbacks to spaying a female cat. However, it will be one of the most important decisions you'll ever make for your pet. Because of this, we at Two Harbors Veterinary Clinic hope you'll take this information into account.

SHOULD MY CAT BE SPAYED?

The only time your pet should not be spayed is if you absolutely know you are going to breed it. Millions of animals are euthanized year after year simply because there is no home for them. They sit for months in shelters hoping for a chance at life, and unfortunately there aren't enough people like you out there that are willing to take them home.

Probably the only time a female cat should be bred is if it is a purebred. This means you have documentation certifying the cat is a purebred. Otherwise, there are plenty of "generic" domestic cats out there, and another litter will do nothing for the overpopulation problem. We invite you to visit the Duluth City Animal Shelter to see the results of people failing to have their cats fixed.

There is no downside to spaying a cat. Consider the following benefits to sterilization:

- **Behavior Modification:** A female cat in heat can be a behavioral nightmare. Many will be affectionate to the point of being bothersome, while others will make frighteningly loud "yowling" noises, sometimes through the night. Intact female cats can also be significantly more territorial, resulting in unwanted behaviors like urine marking and aggression.

- **Health Reasons:** There are three excellent health-related reasons to spay your cat. The first is that the most common fatal infectious disease in cats, Feline Leukemia, is commonly spread through breeding. Without the ability to breed, a female cat cannot be infected through this reservoir. The second is the elimination of uterine and ovarian disease. While not as common as in dogs, uterine infections and ovarian cancer can be heartbreaking to have a beloved pet endure. The last reason is mammary cancer. Cats which are spayed before their first heat cycle have their risk of developing mammary cancer reduced by over 99%. Repeated exposure to the hormones of the heat cycle significantly increase the risk of this deadly disease.

If you still have any doubt as to whether or not your cat should be spayed, you need to ask yourself one very simple question: is there a reason it should not be sterilized? Unless you have a registered purebred cat, there is nothing to be gained from allowing your cat to have a litter, except for heartbreak and disappointment. You may not see these end results yourself, but for each kitten that enters the world right now, many others are being euthanized.

WHEN SHOULD MY CAT BE STERILIZED?

Your cat should be spayed between four and six months of age. Females usually have their first heat cycle around six months, and, as mentioned previously, spaying a female before her first heat cycle almost completely eliminates the occurrence of mammary cancer. We often recommend scheduling the procedure two weeks after the last set of kitten vaccines are given.

It is important to note that any cat at any age can be sterilized. There is no "window of opportunity" that can be missed. It is often slightly more expensive to sterilize an older

cat because the surgery can be more labor-intensive. However, the benefits still far outweigh the price.



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