

## A DESEXED CAT IS A SAFE, HEALTHY CAT



Desexing is crucial for the safety and health of your cat and for all cats in the community. Desexing refers to spaying for female cats and neutering for male cats. The operation can be carried out safely and easily at a veterinary clinic, and it is worth it when you consider the potential future costs associated with having an undesexed cat.

### **Why should a female cat be spayed?**

If you were capable of having 18 children each year what would you do? Yes, that's right, you would make sure that didn't happen! Female cats go on heat frequently during spring and summer and can give birth to many kittens every year. Even kittens can become pregnant.

An undesexed female cat who is allowed to roam outside also risks many dangers. These include infections, sexually transmitted diseases and complications when giving birth to kittens. This is not only painful for your cat but also results in expensive veterinary bills. Desexing is crucial to the health of your female cat and protects her from unwanted pregnancies.

### **Why should a male cat be neutered?**

An undesexed male cat can be a nuisance in the neighbourhood. He will spray urine to mark his territory and fight with other male cats. The strong odour of his urine makes it difficult for him to live indoors. Fighting can result in numerous injuries and illnesses. This can end up being painful for him and very costly for you.

Desexing your male cat will help him enjoy a longer, happier life. His urine should stop smelling so strongly once his hormones have settled down after desexing. He will be much cleaner and calmer, so it will be easier for him to live inside the home and spend safe time outside in a secure garden enclosure.

### **How does desexing my cat help other cats and kittens?**

Every year, thousands of unwanted kittens and cats are surrendered to council pounds and shelters throughout Australia. Sadly, many of them are euthanased. Many homeless kittens and cats are also persecuted on the streets by people who dislike cats. Cats on the street can also be seriously injured or killed by cars.

Unfortunately, this is also sometimes deliberately caused by people who see them as pests and do not value their lives.

Every cat deserves to have a good loving home and to be respected and protected. The best thing you can do to help end the suffering of cats on the streets and to help reduce the euthanasia of homeless cats is to have your own cat desexed.

### **When should my cat be desexed?**

It is never too late to desex your cat. Cats can be desexed at any age. It is best to have your cat desexed by the age of 3 to 4 months before they are sexually mature. Otherwise they may have a unexpected litter even though very young. Some vets will desex a kitten earlier once they reach 1 kg in weight. Cats usually recover very quickly. Your vet will advise you about how to care for your cat post-surgery.

For further information go to:  
National Desexing Network  
<http://www.ndn.org.au/>

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