

# MISSISSIPPI MILLS

## — ANIMAL HOSPITAL —

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

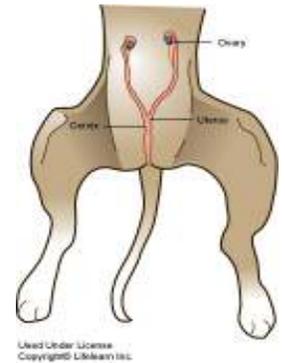
### Spay and Neuter

Spaying is the common term used to describe the surgical procedure known scientifically as an ovariectomy. In this procedure, the ovaries and uterus are removed completely in order to sterilize a female dog or cat. Neutering or castration are the common terms describing the surgical procedure known as orchidectomy. In this procedure, both testicles are removed to sterilize a male dog or cat.

At the Mississippi Mills Animal Hospital, we recommend spaying your pet between 6 and 8 months of age. The surgery is a day procedure so your pet will go home the same day. Pain control medication is dispensed for dog and cat spays and dog neuters to ensure your pet is comfortable. We do recommend 10 to 14 days of exercise restriction to ensure proper healing even though your pet may appear back to normal sooner.

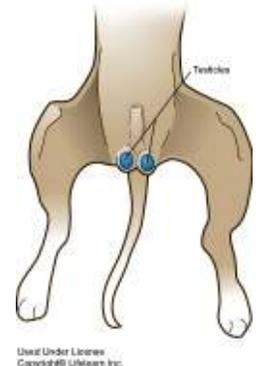
#### Why should I have my cat spayed?

We recommend that all non-breeding cats be sterilized. Several health benefits are associated with spaying your cat. First, spaying eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancers. Second, breast cancer is the number one type of cancer diagnosed in intact or un-spayed female cats. If your cat is spayed before her first heat cycle, there is less than 1/2 of 1% (0.5%) chance of developing breast cancer. With every subsequent heat cycle, the risk of developing breast cancer increases. After about 2 1/2 years of age, ovariectomy offers no protective benefit against developing breast cancer.



#### WHY SHOULD I HAVE MY CAT NEUTERED?

Once a male cat reaches puberty, he will develop a number of behavioral changes that can make him a less desirable pet. He will become territorial and start to mark areas, even inside the house, by spraying urine. This urine has a particularly offensive odor that is difficult to remove. As the tomcat reaches sexual maturity, he will start to enlarge his territory, straying ever farther from the house, particularly at night.



By increasing the size of his territory, he increases the likelihood that he will encounter other cats and get into fights for territorial dominance. The longer a tomcat sprays and fights, the less likely neutering will stop these behaviors.

Fight wounds can result in severe infections and abscesses. Diseases such as FIV and FeLV, which cause immunosuppression and AIDS-like syndromes, are spread through cat bites. These incurable diseases tend to be more common in non-neutered male cats. Last, but not least, humane societies and animal shelters are overrun with unwanted kittens and cats, and neutering decreases the number of needless deaths.

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