






Why should you get your female cat neutered?


 **Health issues** Unneutered female cats are more likely to suffer womb infections and aggressive mammary tumours. The risk of mammary tumours if your cat is neutered before she has her first season is almost non-existent but then increases with each season the cat has. Pregnancy and birth are also not without risk.


 **Financial** The cost of letting a cat give birth is huge, just food costs alone will at least triple. Extra costs include; wormer for each kitten from 2 weeks old, flea and tick control as flea related anaemia can easily kill kittens, vaccination for each kitten at around 9 weeks old, carpet cleaning from kitty toilet training and any vet costs should anything not run smoothly.

 **Popularity** Your neighbours will definitely be talking about you if yours is the cat attracting all the noisy, smelly and aggressive tom cats into the area. Your female in season has such strong pheromones that she can attract unneutered males from over a mile away, even if she's an indoor cat.

 **Stress** Living with an unspayed female is noisy and dramatic when they come into season. They can even start spraying urine, similar to entire males! If she becomes pregnant, birthing is stressful, especially as not all kittens survive birthing, then it's another level of stress and hard work as soon as they reach litter training age!

 **Nuisance** Female cats will 'call' (come into season and be receptive to the male cat) regularly, about every three weeks during sexually active times of the year.

 **Welfare** Less experienced owners might not be prepared to cope with birthing or unexpected health issues. Unplanned kittens may not receive basic care such as flea and worm control. Kittens are often taken from litter mates too young and miss vital socialisation, leading to behaviour issues. Finding good new homes is difficult and kittens are often given to irresponsible and even cruel people.

 **Population control** It is important to neuter a female cat before she can have kittens herself. Her first season usually occurs around the age of 6 months but can happen around 4 months. Female cats can have up to three litters in a year.

Love your kitty? Get her neutered!

What is neutering?

Neutering is also known as a spay for a female. The operation is done under anaesthetic and is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus through an incision made in the side or belly of the cat. Usually, your kitten will be able to return home the same day and any stitches visible in the skin generally need to be removed after 7 to 10 days.



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