

Vets Viewpoint - Neutering Cats

What is neutering?

Neutering is a surgical operation that stops females from becoming pregnant and males from being able to make females pregnant.

Female cats are spayed – her ovaries and uterus are removed.

Male cats are castrated – his testicles are removed.

When to neuter?

Here at Castle Vets we will neuter cats from 4.5 months of age, before they become sexually active.

Why neuter?

As well as reducing the number of unwanted cats in the UK, neutering has many health benefits.

Unneutered – Entire male cats:

*Are more likely to catch diseases and injuries from fighting – such as Feline Leukaemia, Feline Immunodeficiency Disease and abscesses.

*Will travel over a large territory looking for unneutered females and are more at risk of road accidents.

* Will spray to mark their territory.

*Become stressed due to frustration of not finding a mate.

Neutered male cats:

*Are less likely to roam.

*Are less likely to fight and catch diseases.

*Are less likely to spray.

Unneutered – Entire female cats:

*Frequently become pregnant from 4 months of age.

*May have litters of kittens 3 times a year, adding to the overpopulation problem.

*May catch diseases spread through sexual contact and mating behaviour.

*Will call and wail every 3 weeks during the breeding season until becomes pregnant.

Neutered female cats:

*Won't become pregnant.

*Do not call.

*Are less likely to contract diseases.

Neutering facts:

*Cats can start breeding from just 4 months old.

Neutering Cats continued...

*Cats will readily breed with their brothers, sisters or parents.

*The length of a pregnancy is just 9 weeks and the female cat can often come into season again just 6 weeks after giving birth.

*A cat can have up to 3 litters a year with 4 to 6 kittens in a litter.

*An unneutered female cat can be responsible for 20,000 descendants in just 5 years.

*It is not beneficial for a cat to have 'just one litter' before being spayed.

Further information can be found on the Cats Protection website: www.cats.org.uk/



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Nurses News – Chickens

Many people are beginning to keep chickens as garden pets. There is a very informative website with lots of information and health advice that is extremely useful. This is www.chickenvet.co.uk. They also have a monthly topic of interest; this month's topic is Red Mite.



Red Mites become increasingly common from early April as the season starts to warm up. Signs of Red Mite (apart from actually seeing the mites on your chickens or in their housing) are loss of condition, pale combs or wattles, lowered egg production, blood spots on eggs. Mites can also be seen on human skin although they don't tend to live on humans. There are various treatments available but good house hygiene can help to prevent the mite becoming a problem.

Dog Microchipping Special Offer 11th April

On Saturday 11th April, Patch & Acre Country Store, situated just across the road from us, are holding their Spring Pet & Equine event at their Launceston store; Unit 2, Pennygillam Way, Launceston, PL15 7ED.

There will be many different demonstrations, displays, advice, special offers and competitions being held on the day.

Between 11am & 3pm, two of our qualified nurses will be there to microchip your cats and dogs for the special price of just £10. Please note this microchipping offer is only available for cats and dogs. We are sorry, but we will not have the facilities to microchip other species.

Don't forget you can get any of your pets microchipped by our nurses at the surgery at the usual cost of £16.50. It is a very small price to pay for the knowledge your pet can be quickly returned to you if they should stray. We have many animals brought into us and it is a huge relief to know we can contact an owner immediately and return the pet to the safety of their own home as soon as possible. A non-identifiable animal can mean a dog ends up being taken in by the dog warden incurring large costs to have your dog released, or if not claimed being re-homed. Cats may be taken in and possibly re-homed by Cat Protection.

Remember if your pet is microchipped it is important you update your contact details with the national microchip database if they change.

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Ally Bereavement Clinics

The loss of a much loved pet, whether your pet has died, had to be given up or has been lost or stolen, can have a devastating effect on your life in various ways.

Here at Castle Vets our qualified ALLY nurses can provide you with support at this sad time, whether before or after your pet has died or been re-homed. Please ask at reception for further details of how we can help, or visit the ALLY website: www.allyforall.com

It's A Boy!



Small animal vet Simon Cockle and his partner Kim are proud to announce the safe arrival of a baby son, Noah George, on 10th March. I'm sure you will all join us in wishing them congratulations and best wishes.

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April Quiz – Groups of Animals

There are some very unusual names out there, here's a few to test you:

i.e. Flock of Sheep.

Kaleidoscope of B-----

Murder of C----

Skulk of F----

Mob of K-----

Parliament of O---

Rookery of P-----

Prickle of P-----

Shiver of S-----

Troop of M-----

Pod of W-----

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Answers to March "Mad March Hare" Quiz

In March I gave you anagrams of characters from Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland:

TOM TRUCKLE – MOCK TURTLE

SOUR DOME – DORMOUSE

THE RICE CASH – CHESHIRE CAT

PARCEL TRAIL – CATERPILLAR

WET BATH BIRI – WHITE RABBIT

GNORPHY – GRYPHON

MAT HATRED – MAD HATTER

CELIA – ALICE

DOOD – DODO

TWEE MUDDLE – TWEEDLEDUM

DELETE WEED – TWEEDLEDEE

TORQUE SAFE HEN – QUEEN OF HEARTS

FEAR SHAVE KNOT – KNAVE OF HEARTS