

Aireworth Vets   
SMALL ANIMAL



### Surgery Hours By Appointment

Mon - Fri 8am - 8pm

Sat 8.30am - 4.30pm

Sun 10.30am - 12.00 midday

If you have any further queries about your pet's welfare, please do not hesitate to ask.

We are happy to help.

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## Why Spay Your Cat

[www.aireworthvets.co.uk](http://www.aireworthvets.co.uk)

## WHAT IS A CAT SPAY?

A spay is an operation performed under general anaesthetic, to remove the uterus (womb) and the ovaries, also known as an ovarian-hysterectomy.

This means your cat will not be at risk of an unwanted pregnancy since she will no longer be able to have kittens.

## WHY SPAY?

At **Aireworth Vets** we strongly believe that neutering is advisable for most cats. The benefits range from correcting behavioural issues to lowering the risk of fatal cancers and other diseases.

- The main advantage to having your cat spayed is that it will not be able to get **pregnant**.
- Many older cats get **uterine infections** called pyometra. The uterus becomes infected and fills with pus which releases toxins into the body and can damage the kidneys and other organs.  
This condition can only be successfully treated by hysterectomy.
- Cats usually come into **season** at around 6 months and from this point are usually very good at getting pregnant.
- In addition, the **behaviour** of your cat will change this may include wriggling around on the ground, demanding **attention** and **crying** out.
- Un-spayed cats have a much higher incidence of developing mammary **cancer**.

- Neutering lowers the risk of contracting Feline Leukaemia Virus, Immunodeficiency Virus and Infectious Peritonitis Virus. All of these **fatal diseases** are believed to be spread, in part, by mating as well as through close contact e.g. fighting.

## WHAT PROBLEMS COULD THERE BE?

Like any operation, there is a very small risk with a general anaesthetic, the vet will discuss this with you.

Some cats may be prone to gain weight after being spayed, this is easily controlled by managing the amount of food given.

Occasionally large, overweight cats can develop some incontinence. However, this can easily be controlled with medication.



At **Aireworth Vets** we usually perform the spay through an incision in the cat's flank, although you may choose to have a 'mid-line' spay if you prefer. Please ask the Vet to explain the pro's and con's of each procedure.

## WHAT DOES THE OPERATION INVOLVE?

Your cat will be checked thoroughly by the vet before the operation to ensure that she is fit for surgery. The vet may recommend that she has pre-anaesthetic **blood tests** to check her health.

She will be given a pre-med (sedative and pain relief) injection so that she is more **relaxed** and not stressed to be in the hospital.

When it is her turn for surgery she will be taken by the nurse to the prep room. Here she will be given an **injection** into the vein to put her to sleep, she will be intubated and given oxygen and a gaseous anaesthetic to keep her asleep, and then a small area of her coat will be **clipped** to prepare her for surgery. She will then be transferred to the operating theatre for her surgery.

After the operation your cat's **recovery** is monitored in the prep room. When she has regained consciousness we take her back to her kennel in the cattery to rest. Both a vet and a nurse will care for your cat throughout the day.

## WHEN SHOULD MY CAT BE SPAYED?

We usually advise that cats should be spayed once they are 4 months old. They may come into season at 6 months, so they risk having an unwanted pregnancy whilst they are still very young.

If you have any questions about your cat, please ask.