



Why desex my cat?

Desex your cat before it can breed

If you are not intending on becoming a registered breeder it is important that you have your cat desexed. Every year, thousands of healthy cats die needlessly, because homes cannot be found for them. If more male and female cats are desexed, there will be fewer unwanted kittens in our community.

Many kittens can be purchased already desexed, but if your new kitten has not been desexed then you can have this done by a vet from three months of age – as a female cat can be pregnant with kittens from four months of age. The surgery is safe and in most cases your cat will be ready to return home within twenty-four hours.

We understand...

... desexing makes your cat a much better companion and has many other benefits for you, your pet, and the community.

Desexing: the Fast Facts

There are many benefits of having your cat desexed:

- Stops unwanted litters, reducing the problem and costs of unwanted pets in the community
- Increases your cat's life expectancy
- Improves your cat's temperament and health
- Reduces the risks of developing certain cancers
- Reduces undesirable behaviours, such as spraying, marking, fighting and yowling
- Reduces your cat's desire to roam

If you do not have your cat desexed:

- Females spray and seek males when 'in season'
- Female cats will yowl at the door, will roll on the ground and be agitated until they are let out.
- Male cats fight over a female, often resulting in injuries and increased risks of getting Feline AIDS
- Entire male cats will roam for kilometres looking for a sexual mate, increasing the risk of being lost, hit by a car, or attacked by other animals.

We understand...

... the improved health and behavioural benefits of desexing will assist your cat to enjoy a healthier and happier life.



What is involved?

Desexing is the surgical sterilisation of your kitten or cat under a general anaesthetic and only a qualified veterinary surgeon can undertake this procedure.

For female cats, it involves the removal of the ovaries and uterus via a small incision 5-10cm long either along the abdomen or the flank (the side of the abdomen). For male cats, it involves the removal of both testicles through a 2-3cm incision just in front of the scrotum. A tattoo can be placed on the inside of your cat's ear to signify it has been desexed.

Your vet will administer the post-operative requirements of your cat and normally cats are ready to go home a few hours after the procedure. Your vet will also give you detailed advice on how to properly care for your cat at home in the days following surgery.

Desexing does not affect the personality traits of your cat and is the socially responsible and accepted thing to do.

What is the cost?

While the cost of desexing your cat will vary based on its sex, age and the fees of your selected vet, the cost is very small when compared with the benefits that come from it. Remember, a desexed cat has a reduced risk of many health issues that can be costly to treat, saving you money in the longer term. Some SA councils offer incentives for desexing and micro-chipping your cat.

When and where to go?

Early-age desexing brings positive behavioural changes and health benefits. Male and female cats can be desexed anytime after they are twelve weeks old. It is strongly recommended that your cat be desexed before it reaches sexual maturity, which can be as early as four months of age.

Traditionally, cats were desexed between six and nine months of age. However, by five months of age, female cats can already be pregnant and males may begin to display aggression and spray urine.

'Early-age desexing', is the desexing of kittens between two to three months of age, and is endorsed by RSPCA Australia. It is practised by most large Australian animal shelters and an increasing number of veterinarians. Many registered purebred cat breeders also follow this practice and desex kittens before they leave their care.

Desexing: a Good Owner tip

While desexed cats may be less active due to a reduced desire to roam, there's no need to adjust their diet after the operation. If you are concerned about your cat gaining weight after desexing speak to your vet before making any dietary changes.

To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good cat owner, visit goodcatsa.com