



CAT SPEY



What is a Spey?

Ovariohysterectomy is the correct medical term used for 'speying' or 'desexing' of the female. The surgical procedure involves the complete removal of the uterus and both ovaries.

Although it is a commonly performed procedure, ovariohysterectomy of the cat is major surgery, involving a general anaesthetic and sterile operating technique. There may be slight discomfort for one or two days after surgery. Recovery is rapid in most cases.

Why Spey?

Entire female cats (queens) are very successful at getting pregnant. Desexing reduces roaming, reduces the chance of getting hit by a car and stops unwanted litters.

Once a queen is speyed:

- Pregnancy is impossible.
- She will not come in heat and call for mates.
- Her risk of breast cancer and uterine infections is lowered.
- It makes no difference whether your cat has had a litter or not before she is speyed.

Before surgery

No food or fluids should be offered on the morning of surgery. Food may be given up to 8pm the night before (anything given after this increases the chance of vomiting under anaesthetic).

She should be brought to the clinic between 8 and 8.30am on the day of surgery, or may be presented the night before.

After surgery

Your cat is ready to go home on the same day as surgery.

Give her a very small amount of food on the night after surgery. Don't worry if food is not eaten her appetite should return the next day. Also give a small amount of water or milk to drink. Keep her somewhere quiet, warm and comfortable her first night home. She will be quieter than usual while the anaesthetic is wearing off.

Restrict her activity for the first few days after surgery.

A small amount of swelling around the wound is normal.

Sutures (stitches) are to be removed 7-10 days after surgery.

Contact the Northland Vet Group immediately if you feel there is any problem after surgery.