

SIDE EFFECTS AFTER NEUTERING CATS

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Abstract

Lately, the massive multiplication of cats has become a worrying problem at least in Oradea, Bihor county. Obviously, we are referring to stray cats that have ended up on the streets, many of them in the area of blocks, houses or households where there are still animal lovers to feed them.

Keywords: neutered cats, cats in heat, pyometra, urinary incontinence

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INTRODUCTION

Obviously, the best way to stop cats breeding is to sterilize them. There are sterilization campaigns for stray cats to stop them breeding. Surgical methods used include ovariohysterectomy, a surgical method whereby the cat is taken out of heat and is no longer fit for breeding by surgically removing the ovaries and uterus.

In order to prepare this paper we have called on the support and help of several clinics in Bihor county in terms of cat casuistry after sterilization. With regard to stray street cats that are sterilized, it is difficult to follow up post-sterilization, because they are returned to the territory and can no longer be traced for various reasons, but mainly because they can no longer be caught. This leaves the monitoring of owned cats that have been neutered and can be tracked by the owner through behaviour and food diets, and by the doctor in terms of health status.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

As a surgical and basic working method was sterilization by ovariohysterectomy under general anesthesia. General anesthesia was performed either classic with anesthetic solutions or by inhalation. Inhalational anesthesia is preferred because it has fewer risks than the classic one, but nevertheless risks are present for both methods, except that in one the risks are lower, but still exist, and a major role is also played by the cat's pathology, maintenance status, age, health status, which can be considered as favorable factors in an anesthesia. The operative technique or *modus operandi* consists of opening the abdomen,

usually on the *linea alba*, highlighting the uterus, uterine horns and ovaries in the operative field and removing them by excision with ligatures or hemostatic clips, closing the abdomen according to the anatomical plans and suturing to the skin.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this study, several clinical cases from several clinics in Oradea were taken into consideration. Only sterilized cats with owner were considered, because they were easier to monitor. Out of 25 cats considered for this study, the most frequent post-neuterization disorders were related to the presence of bladder stones which subsequently increased in number and size of urinary stones. The increase in size was due to the fact that the cat having no obvious clinical signs with clinical manifestations, the large size of the calculi was accidentally detected during routine control, at routine urinary tract ultrasonographic examination.

Another very rare post-sterilization condition in cats is that, even though the ovariohysterectomy operation should subsequently stop the cat from going into heat, sometimes post-sterilization the cat exhibits the symptoms of a cat in heat. It is a rare condition, but is described in specialised books as being a result of small pieces or fragments of intra-abdominal ovarian tissue being accidentally left behind during the surgical act.

A more common condition could be considered postoperative stump pyometra, when during the operation a larger portion of the uterus or fragments of the uterus remain, or when the stump is not closed by ligature or is placed above the cervix.

Urinary incontinence is another condition that may occur post neutering if at the time of sterilization the cat has had some damage to the uterus that weakens the muscles or if the bladder is placed in the immediate vicinity of the bladder.

The rest of the conditions described are dermatitis related to post-sterilization hormonal lack or various urinary disorders.

Of all cats entered in the study, 50% were due to urinary tract disorders with the presence of bladder stones of various sizes.

CONCLUSIONS

A major conclusion from this study is that clearly the most effective method to prevent stray cats from breeding is sterilization. Thus, a cat, being more prolific than a dog by breeding, can reach a number of 10-16 kittens/year. This number is estimated and depends on the cat's prolificacy, state of maintenance, age, the environmental conditions in which the cat lives and, obviously, the cat's state of health.

This condition also occurred due to owners' inattention to veterinary advice regarding diet, water intake and routine ultrasound examination of the patient as prevention in early detection of possible bladder stones.

The remaining conditions of bladder pyometra or urinary incontinence were not described in these cats taken in the study at 1 year post neutering.

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