

K.C. CAT CLINIC
7101 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64114
Phone (816) 361-4888
kccatclinic.com

HEAT CYCLE FOR CATS

Cats are in heat 5-6 weeks total. They show signs of heat like calling & rolling for 5-7 days, then they stop for 5-7 days and then they start again. This goes on for the 5-6 week period. Physiologically they are in heat for the whole time, but behavioral wise they cycle. Cats usually go into heat 2-3 times a year beginning in the Spring. They can be spayed anytime, but when they are in heat, the surgery may be a little more complicated and therefore, more expensive. If you wish more information, please make an appointment and the Doctor can discuss reproductive issues with you. We advise the you spay your cat before they go into heat. If people have any reproductive questions regarding breeding, etc., please refer them to Gladstone Animal Clinic at (816) 436-1100.

QUEENING QUESTIONS

Gestation period for cats is usually 63-69 days. Cats will usually slow down 24-48 hours prior to delivery. Sometimes they will collect socks, clothes or burrow into places (nesting behavior) several weeks prior to delivery. You can try to offer a large open box with towels, but don't take offense if she chooses some place else. When cats start labor they usually lay on their side and push. This may last several hours before the first kitten is born. Labor usually lasts about 30-60 minutes between kittens after the first kitten is born. Sometimes they will stop for several hours in the middle of the litter as well. If your cat has been straining for a very long time or you see a great deal of bleeding, seek attention ASAP (go to the Emergency Clinic) if afternoon or pm. Please schedule an appointment with the Doctors to discuss other reproductive questions. We advise addressing these issues before your cat gets pregnant.

WHY DO I NEED TO VACCINATE MY CAT, IT'S INSIDE ALL THE TIME?

Rabies vaccinations are required by law. Granted, exposure may be low inside, but there are many cases of bats being in houses. A common reason for people in our area having to take rabies shots is because of bat bites that they may not have even been aware of at the time of the bite. In addition, if a cat is unvaccinated, the bureaucratic headaches are magnified if your cat bites someone. It must be reported to Animal Control for a bite report. A current rabies vaccination is required by the clinic.

The upper respiratory viruses can live for a week or more in the environment. They can be transmitted by objects and not just exposure to other cats. You can bring these viruses into your home on shoes and clothing. If your cat investigates these items with a heavy virus load, that can be potential mode of exposure. Vaccinating for the upper respiratory viruses can help prevent severe illness from these diseases. No vaccine however will prevent the mild sneezes of a "cat cold."