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Dr. Bronwyn Orr is the Scientific Officer for Companion Animals at RSPCA Australia.

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Abstract

Pre-pubertal desexing

Pre-pubertal desexing is the act of desexing an animal before it reaches sexual maturity, which in cats can be as early as 3.5 months. In order to utilize desexing as a means of population control in cats, the aim should be to desex all cats before 4 months. Although shelters and rescue organisations often desex even earlier than 4 months, private veterinary practices are often concerned about the anaesthetic risk associated with surgery on young patients. Support for pre-pubertal desexing is high among veterinarians but the risk reduction approach means cats are often not desexed until 4-6 months. This presentation will outline options for improving uptake of pre-pubertal desexing among private veterinarians.