

## **Cat Estrus**

### **The Feline Estrus Period**

The female cat (queen) comes into heat (estrus) many times each year. The heat period lasts about 2-3 weeks. If she is not bred, she will return to heat in 1-2 weeks

### **Signs of Estrus**

The signs of heat are different in cats as compared to dogs. Cats have minimal vaginal bleeding, usually not even enough to be detected. Changes in behavior represent the most notable sign. Cats become very affectionate. They rub against their owners and furniture and constantly want attention. They roll on the floor. When stroked over the back, they raise their rear quarters into the air and tread with the back legs. They also become very vocal. These behavior changes often become obnoxious to owners and may be interpreted as some unusual illness. In addition, queens in heat attract intact (non-neutered) male cats. Tomcats that have never been seen will appear and attempt to enter the house to get to the female.

### **Spaying a female**

Whereas veterinarians prefer not to spay a cat in heat, it can be done. If the cat is in estrus, we will often recommend waiting 2 weeks, then performing the surgery before the cat goes into heat again