

How to Determine a Cat's Sex

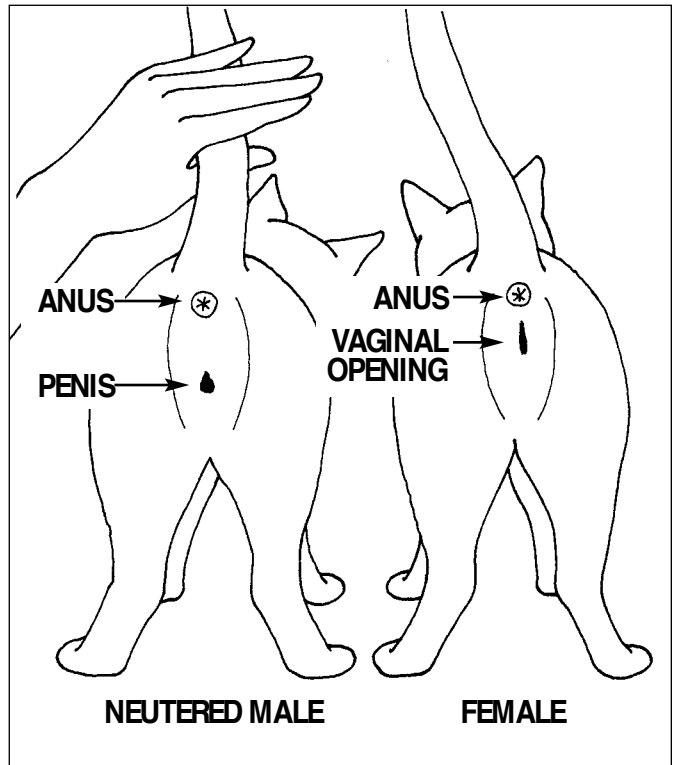
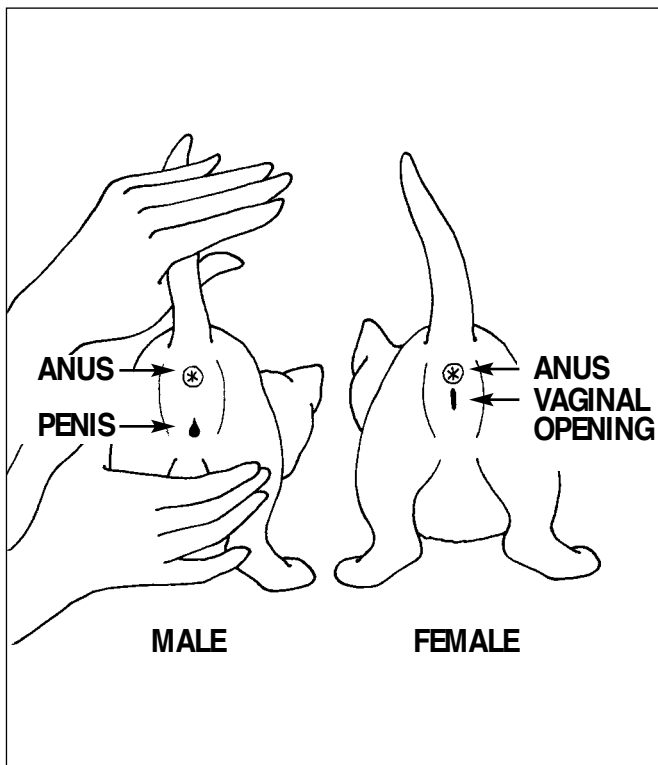
It's not always easy to figure out if a kitten or cat is a boy or girl. In kittens, unlike in puppies, no testicles are plainly visible until the animals reach 6-10 weeks of age. In adult cats, neutered males can be easily confused with females. The diagrams below can help.

In small kittens, gently lift the tail and look at the spacing between the anus and the sexual organ.

- The kitten is a male if the spacing between the anus and the penis is relatively wide (about ½ inch apart). The penis is usually hidden, but the area around it will look more like a hole than a slit.
- The kitten is a female if the anus and the vaginal opening are close together—almost adjacent to each other. The vaginal opening looks more like a slit than a round hole.

Because they are missing their testicles, adult neutered male cats don't look much different from adult female cats. Gently lift the tail and look at the spacing between the anus and the sexual organ.

- The cat is a neutered male if the spacing between the anus and the penis is relatively wide (more than one inch apart).
- The cat is a female if the anus and the vaginal opening are relatively close together (less than ½ inch apart).



Illustrations by Susie Duckworth