

# CLINIC POLICIES FOR FREE SURGICAL SERVICES



Thank you for contacting the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project. We hope to help improve the lives of the felines in your life.

The free services we provide are intended to...

- Reduce the number of free-roaming and unowned stray or abandoned cats.
- Reduce the impact of free-roaming cats on the environment.
- Improve the quality of life of free-roaming cats.
- Reduce the number of cats placed in and euthanized in area shelters.
- Increase the chances for shelter cats to be placed in homes.

All policies are in place to insure the greatest safety for the cats while they are in our care.

Please read the following information carefully. You must agree with and accept all of the clinic policies before bringing a cat for surgery. Our policies are intended to put the cats' needs first.

## Ear-Tips

Ear-tipping is mandatory for cats receiving free surgery as a safety measure for the cat's benefit. One centimeter is removed from one ear-tip in order to visibly identify an altered free-roaming cat to avoid future transport, stress and anesthesia. Kittens are ear-tipped proportionally less than one centimeter. (See photos at <[www.feralcatproject.org](http://www.feralcatproject.org)>)

## No-Ear-Tips

We offer a "no-ear-tip" option for adoptable and owned cats for a suggested donation of \$15/neuter and \$25/spay to cover surgical expenses. All cats that are not ear-tipped receive a small tattoo on the abdomen (belly) to indicate they're spayed/neutered. After the hair regrows, the tattoo is only visible if the belly is shaved. This protects cats from unnecessary surgeries if lost or separated from their human families in the future.

## Appropriate Carriers

We accept either tame or feral-behaving cats in carriers. Small, sturdy plastic carriers with front opening doors are required. Large dog carriers are not accepted. Only one cat per carrier is allowed; multiple cats in one carrier will not be admitted. We allow litters of small, tame kittens in one carrier before surgery, as long as separate empty carriers are provided for recovery. Cardboard carriers/boxes are not accepted.

## Traps

Metal traps are accepted and preferred for feral-behaving cats. Two cats are allowed in a trap prior to surgery, but we require separate carriers/traps for recovery.

## Minimum Weight

Two pounds is the minimum weight for surgery. Kittens weighing less than two pounds will be returned without being sedated or altered.

## Microchipped Cats

All cats are scanned for microchips. If a microchip is found, no further services are performed. We will attempt to contact the chip registrant and inform him/her how the cat was transported to the clinic and how best to retrieve the cat.

## Rabies vaccine

All ear-tip cats weighing over four pounds receive a free rabies vaccine.

## Medical Problems

We do not provide veterinary care other than spay/neuter. Medical issues observed by the staff are noted on the Medical Record. Minor problems such as fight wounds may be treated, but this is not guaranteed. We do not dispense nor prescribe medications. We refer you to your regular veterinarian, if further care is indicated.

## Euthanasia for Ear-Tip Cats

Only free-roaming cats presented for ear-tip surgeries are considered for euthanasia due to health reasons. If the examining veterinarian believes a cat is suffering, determines that a cat is in very poor health, or believes that it is inhumane to return the cat to a free-roaming lifestyle, we may euthanize the cat without contacting you first.

We strive to make accurate and humane assessments, but choices are not always clear. If we have questions or need further information to assist in making a decision, we will call the contact/agent listed on the Medical Record.

If you have or know of a sick or suffering free-roaming cat that needs to be euthanized for humane reasons, we provide that service for free.

Cats presented for no-ear-tip surgeries are never euthanized without request by or permission from the owner/agent.

We do not euthanize any cat that appears to be in good health.

## Blood Draw Option

We do not provide test kits or perform onsite testing for feline leukemia (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV.) For those interested in having tests run through their veterinarian, we offer a Blood Draw option for collecting a blood sample to go home with the cat. Because the accuracy of these tests is widely variable and can be affected by numerous factors, we strongly recommend consultation with a veterinarian concerning testing and results.

## Medical Record and Surgical Release Forms

These forms must be completed legibly and signed prior to surgery. Incomplete or illegible paperwork will result in refusal of services and cats being returned unaltered. Please read the documents thoroughly.

## Right to Refuse Services

We reserve the right to refuse future services to any person who engages in any inappropriate treatment of staff, volunteers, property or cats.