



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

## Feral Cat/Kitten Spay/Neuter Information

### DEFINITIONS

**Feral cats/kittens** – A feral cat is a cat that can not be handled; the cat will bite or scratch if s/he feels threatened. A feral cat must be trapped in order to be transported. Before trapping, please review the handout entitled Feral Cat Trapping Instructions (on our website under Services & Programs and then Community Outreach).

**Socialized feral kittens** – If kittens can not yet be picked up and handled, they need to be treated as feral cats for the purposes of the Spay/Neuter Clinic.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- The PHS Spay/Neuter Clinic is located at the north end of the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA building at 12 Airport Boulevard.
- The PHS/SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic is open Monday-Friday. Feral cats are admitted Tuesday-Friday.

### SAN MATEO COUNTY SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS

- In order to receive services using a voucher, you must have a valid voucher from the San Mateo County Health Department office and present your driver's license with a current San Mateo County address at the time the cat is brought into the Spay/Neuter Clinic for services (see back page). Caregiver must agree to the terms of use outlined on the County voucher in order to use voucher at clinic.
- Only those caregivers listed on the voucher can present the cats for services.

**Services offered for vouchers:** Spay or neuter surgery, Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) testing, FVRCP, rabies, and FeLV vaccinations and ear tip. All cats will have their ear tipped in order to easily identify them as having been spayed/neutered. A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated.

If you are bringing a feral cat to our clinic and are using a San Mateo County Spay/Neuter Voucher, you must agree to have the cat euthanized if the cat tests positive for either FIV or FeLV, as per the guidelines established by the San Mateo County Health Department for use of the Spay/Neuter Vouchers.

- These services are \$50 with out voucher.

### FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV) AND FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS (FeLV)

We strongly recommend that feral cats testing positive for FIV or FeLV be euthanized to reduce the suffering of the infected cat and to prevent the spread of disease to other cats. Both FIV and FeLV are incurable diseases that can be transmitted between cats. If you are bringing a feral cat to our clinic for surgery and are NOT using a San Mateo County Spay/Neuter Voucher, we will ask you to sign a release indicating that you authorize our staff to euthanize the cat should the cat test positive for either FIV or FeLV. If you chose not to authorize euthanasia for a feral cat that tests positive for either disease, we will provide the services described above and return the cat to you.

### SICK CATS

Sick cats will be refused for surgery, since this greatly increases the risk of serious surgical complications. Symptoms that could cause surgical complications include:

- Sneezing, runny eyes, nasal discharge, or cold-like symptoms indicating an upper respiratory infection
- Excessive thinness, vomiting, diarrhea or other sign of poor health

Cats exhibiting these symptoms should be taken to a private veterinarian for treatment and be in a healthy state before returning for surgery.

### ADMITTANCE AND PRE-SURGERY

- **We alter feral cats by appointment only, Tuesday through Friday.** Once you have trapped a feral cat, please call this number and leave a message: 650/340-7022 x679. Staff will check messages and call caregivers back to make appointments. Please note that trying to call around to different departments in an attempt to reach a live person will not expedite the process; if anything, it will mean your info will not be left in the **only** place where it needs to be.
- **Feral cats must be in a humane trap, one cat per trap.** A cat brought in a cardboard carrier, airline kennel, or carrier other than a humane trap will be refused for surgery to avoid injury to staff when anesthetizing the cat. If two cats are caught

**in the same trap, the caregiver is responsible for transferring one cat to another trap (ask for instruction).**

- No more than two cats per day may be brought in for each caregiver.
- Surgery on cats who are nursing kittens is more difficult and risky. Nursing females should not be brought in until her kittens are 6-8 weeks old. If possible, kittens should be separated from the mother at this age, and the mother brought in 1-2 weeks later. This allows time for the milk to dry up.

## **SURGERY**

Occasionally a cat, once anesthetized, will be found to have a condition of such severity that euthanasia is the only humane alternative, since returning the cat to its own environment would mean a slow, painful demise. Ideally, to avoid additional stress and pain to the cat, euthanasia is performed before the cat awakens from the anesthetic. Since it is often difficult to reach the owner during the day, he/she will be asked to sign a release at the time of admitting allowing the clinic to euthanize any animal discovered to have a life threatening condition. The veterinarian will make all decisions regarding suitability for surgery or necessity of euthanasia.

## **POST-SURGERY/RECOVERY**

- Cats must be picked up the same day as surgery between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- You may notice your cat doing some unusual behaviors such as head bobbing and weaving and over-reacting to noise and fast movements. These signs, as well as glassy eyes, are normal side effects of the anesthetic used. The cat may also be a little quiet but should return to normal the day following surgery.
- Your cat has no external stitches, so there is no need to return to the clinic for suture removal.
- Ask for surgical Post-Operative Instructions from the Spay/Neuter Clinic for more information than is contained here.

In order to recover from the anesthesia and surgery, feral cats should be kept indoors or in a warm, dry sheltered area for 48 – 72 hours after discharge from the Spay/Neuter Clinic. If you have a female cat that was pregnant, please try to keep her in for five to seven days.

If you would like the cat to recover in another cage or carrier instead of the trap, please bring it with you when you drop the cat off for surgery. It is simple to put the cat in another cage while it is under anesthesia. Waiting until you pick up the cat to

transfer it to another cage is more difficult and can result in injury to the cat.

If you would like to have Advantage or another flea-control product applied while the cat is anesthetized, present the product when you bring the cat in for surgery. Alternatively, Advantage products can be purchased from the Spay/Neuter Clinic.

If your cat has problems resulting from the spay or neuter surgery, please call the spay/neuter clinic as soon as possible at 650/340-7025. If problems should arise and our clinic is closed, contact your private veterinarian or the Northern Peninsula Emergency Veterinary Clinic at 650/348-2575. Be advised that if you bring your animal to the emergency clinic they will charge you as they are not associated with the Peninsula Humane Society and PHS/SPCA **can not** reimburse you. Please call the Spay/Neuter Clinic the next business day to inform us of the problem.

## **GETTING VACCINATIONS AT PHS**

Socialized kittens are eligible for the pre-surgical vaccination for \$15 at the Spay/Neuter Clinic. Come to the Spay/Neuter Clinic between 10 a.m. - Noon or 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday (except holidays). Alternately, you can get vaccinations through the Peninsula Humane Society's Low Cost Vaccination Clinic. The PHS Low Cost Vaccination Clinics are held the first Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. The cost is \$15 per vaccination.

***Individuals not presenting a voucher or driver's license with valid San Mateo County address will be charged \$50 for the feral cat package and full price for socialized kittens.***