

CAREGIVER REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

TRAPPING

Notification of Trapping signs on bright colored paper indicating when and where humane trapping of feral cats will occur must be posted at the trapping site at least five days before trapping occurs. A copy of the notification sign is enclosed – you can make copies of this sign (use bright colored paper). It is best to place signs in a plastic sheet protector before they are posted.

A diligent attempt should be made to (eventually) humanely trap all feral cats that appear at the trapping site. One cat left behind = more kittens!!

The person that presents a feral cat to the spay/neuter clinic ensures that to the best of his/her knowledge the cat presented for sterilization is un-owned.

Cats presented for spaying/neutering must be at least eight weeks old and weigh at least 2.5 pounds. Any cat that is younger than eight weeks old and does not weigh at least 2.5 pounds will not be sterilized.

It is best if nursing female cats are not brought to the clinic until their kittens are six to seven weeks old. If possible, kittens should be separate from their mother at this age and the mother cat brought to be spayed one week after separation. This allows time for the milk to dry up. If this is not possible, lactating female cats can be spayed, released after surgery and recovery and continue to nurse their kittens.

Check the cats in the traps. If you have trapped a cat with an “ear-tip” release it. It has already been spayed or neutered.

MAKING A SPAY/NEUTER APPOINTMENT

Reservations are required. To schedule an appointment, call Feral Cat FOCUS at 1-888-902-9717 (toll free). Leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Feral Cat FOCUS partners with Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic of WNY located at 3443 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna (www.operationpets.org). Surgeries are performed at Operation PETS.

If you are unable to trap the cat for a scheduled appointment:

- If this occurs before the day of surgery call Feral Cat FOCUS at 1-800-902-9717 (toll free) as soon as possible to let us know. This may allow another cat that doesn't have a reservation to use your reserved spot.
- If this happens on the day of surgery you need to call Operation PETS at 716-783-8998 and leave a message on Line 6.

PRE-SURGERY

Do not feed cats on the morning of surgery. The cat's stomach needs to be empty before he has anesthesia. That's because anesthetic drugs can cause vomiting, and that can lead to pneumonia. Kittens under 12 weeks old can be fed up until 6 a.m. on the morning of surgery.

ADMISSION/DISCHARGE

In order to accomplish the high volume of surgeries done on a daily basis, Operation PETS must follow strict arrival and departure times. Everyone arrives for admission at the same time. Everyone arrives for discharge at the same time. This assures that office staff and medical staff have time needed to accomplish all the administrative and surgical demands of the day.

You may need to wait upon admission and discharge so plan accordingly.

You must arrive at Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic for admission at the time the Feral Cat Phone Volunteer tells you to arrive!

You must arrive at Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic for discharge at the time Operation PETS tells you to arrive!

For the safety of clinic staff, all cats presented for spay/neuter surgery MUST arrive in a humane trap.

If you use a humane trap other than one borrowed from Feral Cat FOCUS, please clearly label it with your name and telephone number.

Trap covers are required to keep cats calm in the trap. Without a cover, cats can become agitated and injure themselves trying to escape.

Leave cat/s in your car and come inside first to complete your paperwork. Operation PETS will let you know when they are ready for the cats.

NEVER transport cats in an open-bed truck or closed, unventilated car trunk. These are not safe situations for cats and are extremely terrifying to cats.

PAYMENT - Any required fees must be paid in cash or credit card. Checks are not accepted.

AFTER SURGERY

Refer to specific discharge instructions provided by Operation PETS Spay/Neuter Clinic.

After spay/neuter surgery, cats must be housed in a warm, quiet, well-ventilated area for at least one or two nights following the surgery where they can be regularly monitored.

Most cats can be released the day following surgery as long as they are alert, responsive, and are showing no signs of illness or surgical complications (bleeding, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, or lethargy). Immediately call Operation PETS at 716-783-8998 should any of these signs occur. Please note that Operation PETS is not open on evenings or week-ends so call your local emergency veterinary hospital during these times.

During colder seasons cats (especially females) may need to be held for a longer period of time.

When the cat is awake, canned cat food, mixed with water, should be rolled into a ball and dropped into trap.

Do not reach into trap that contains a cat. Keep cats in their traps with clean newspaper underneath.