



CLINIC POLICIES FOR FREE SURGICAL SERVICES

Thank you for contacting PAWS. 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 the left 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.

Appropriate Carriers for tame behaving cats

Tame behaving cats are accepted in carriers while feral-behaving cats must be in humane traps (see below). 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. Cardboard carriers/boxes are not accepted.

Traps for feral behaving cats

Humane traps (ie Hav-a-Hart, Safeguard, etc.) must be used for feral-behaving cats. IF two cats happen to be trapped in one trap, please do not try to remove – bring them to the clinic in the one trap and bring separate carriers/traps with you following surgery for recovery.

Minimum Weight/Age

Four pounds or three months of age is the minimum weight for surgery. Kittens weighing less than four pounds or younger than three months of age will be returned without being sedated or altered.

Rabies, Distemper and URI vaccines

All ear tip cats weighing over four pounds or at least three months of age will receive a legal rabies vaccine and distemper/URI vaccines.

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 and abscesses 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

If the examining veterinarian believes a cat is suffering, or determines that a cat is in very poor health, and 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 outwardly ill cat that needs to be euthanized for humane reasons, we provide that service for free.

Testing FeLV and FIV

PAWS does not test for feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). Caretakers who wish to have feral cats tested should have it performed at a regular veterinary clinic BEFORE bringing the cat to PAWS for sterilization.

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.