



**Spay/Neuter Clinic**  
12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94401  
650/340-7025

## **Feral Cat/Kitten and Socialized Kitten Spay/Neuter Information**

### **DEFINITIONS**

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

Socialized kittens – Kittens born to feral mothers, once socialized, can be easily handled by humans. If kittens cannot yet be picked up and handled, they are not yet considered socialized and need to be treated as feral cats for 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.
- In order to receive services for the prices listed here, 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 terms of use outlined on 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**

Feral cats/kittens: There is no charge for spay or neuter surgery, Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) testing, FVRCP, rabies, and FeLV vaccinations and ear tip. A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated. These services are \$45 with out voucher.

Socialized kittens/cats: There is a \$15 co-pay per cat for spay or neuter surgery. Vaccinations, microchip or FIV/FeLV test can be provided at low cost (ask for details).

### **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.

# Feral Cat/Kitten and Socialized Kitten Spay/Neuter Information

## ADMITTANCE AND PRE-SURGERY

### Feral cats/kittens

- Feral cats are accepted for admittance to the PHS Spay/Neuter Clinic Tuesday through Friday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. on a first come/first serve basis.
- 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.

### Socialized kittens

- Kittens can be spayed or neutered once they reach at least 4 months of age and weigh at least two pounds.
- An appointment must be made for socialized kittens. Call the Spay/Neuter Clinic at (650) 340-7025 to schedule an appointment. At that time, you will be given additional pre-surgical instructions.
- Socialized kittens must receive an FVRCP injection 7-10 days before their surgery. This allows them to build some extra immunity before the surgery. This can be done at PHS (See below Getting Vaccinations at PHS) or through your private veterinarian.
- Socialized kittens do not need to be brought in a trap and will not be ear-tipped unless requested.

## SURGERY

Occasionally a cat, once anesthetized, will be found to have a condition that prohibits surgery. On rare occasions a disease condition will be of such severity or of a terminal nature that euthanasia is the only humane alternative since returning the cat to its own environment would mean a slower, painful demise. Ideally, to avoid additional stress and pain to the cat, euthanasia is performed before it 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, including FeLV and FIV. The veterinarian will make all decisions regarding suitability for surgery or necessity of euthanasia. If using voucher, caregiver must agree to abide by terms outlined. If paying for services the caregiver has option to take back the cat.

Cats testing positive for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) are euthanized to reduce suffering of the infected cat and to prevent the spread of this terminal disease to other cats. Both FeLV and FIV are incurable diseases that can be transmitted by contact between cats.

# Feral Cat/Kitten and Socialized Kitten Spay/Neuter Information

## POST-SURGERY/RECOVERY

- Cats must be picked up the same day as surgery between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- You may notice your cat doing some unusual behaviors such as head bobbing and weaving. 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, bring your cat back to the spay/neuter clinic as soon as possible. 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 \$10 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, though these will be at an additional cost to you. The PHS Low Cost Vaccination Clinics are held the first Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. The cost is \$10 per vaccination.

**Individuals not presenting a voucher  
or driver's license with valid San Mateo County address will be charged \$45  
for the feral cat package and full price for socialized kittens.**