



Feral Cat/ Kitten Spay & Neuter Information

DEFINITIONS

Feral cats/ kittens – A feral cat is a cat that cannot 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 additional information located on our website (peninsulahumanesociety.org) under Community Services → Street Cat Services.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location – The PHS Spay/Neuter Clinic is located at the north end of the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA building at 12 Airport Blvd. in San Mateo.

Hours – The PHS Spay/Neuter Clinic is open Monday – Wednesday and Friday. Feral cats are admitted in the morning from 7:00am to 9:30am, and are picked up the same day from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.

Contact – We have a dedicated Feral Cat Line: **650-340-7022 x679**. Please only use this number.

Services offered – The \$50 Feral Cat Package includes: spay or neuter surgery, Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) testing, FVRCP vaccine, rabies vaccine, microchip, and ear tip. All cats must have their ear tipped in order to easily identify them as having been spayed or neutered.

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 at additional cost.

We are able to provide this low-cost service because of dedicated donors. Any donations you can contribute are greatly appreciated.

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. Caregiver must agree to the terms of use outlined on the County Voucher, and associated surgical release documents from the Peninsula Humane Society, in order to use the voucher at our clinic. **Only those caregivers listed on the voucher can present the cat for services, and sign the necessary paperwork.**

Services offered for vouchers – The \$50 Feral Cat Package listed above is completely covered by the voucher. 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.

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 choose not to authorize euthanasia for a feral cat that tests positive for either disease, we will provide the services listed previously and return the cat to you. **You will be responsible for any continuing care the cat needs, including veterinary services.**

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, lethargy, skin issues, or other signs 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, Monday – Wednesday and Friday. Once you have trapped a feral cat, please leave a message on our **Feral Cat Line: 650-340-7022 x679**. Staff will prioritize messages on this line, and call caregivers back to set up appointments. Please note that trying to call around to different departments in an attempt to reach a live person will not expedite this process; if anything, it will mean your request will be more difficult to track down and accommodate.

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 and cat during the anesthetizing process. 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 that are nursing kittens is more difficult and risky, for both the mother and the kittens. Nursing females should not be brought in until their 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 excess milk to dry up.

SURGERY AND COMPLICATIONS

Surgeries are performed between 9:30am and 3:30pm. We remove all reproductive organs during surgery, and use internal sutures and external glue as necessary.

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 admittance 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 AND RECOVERY

Cats must be picked up the same day as surgery between 4:00pm and 5:30pm.

You may notice your cat showing 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 within 24 hours post-surgery.

Your cat has no external stitches, so there is no need to return to the clinic for suture removal.

We have Post-Operative Instructions available at the clinic, and on the Spay/Neuter Clinic page of our website.

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; staff will not transfer a cat that has already woken up from anesthesia.

If your cat has problems resulting from the spay or neuter surgery, please call the clinic as soon as possible at 650-340-7015. If problems should arise and our clinic is closed, contact your private veterinarian or the nearest emergency clinic. The clinic closest to the Peninsula Humane Society is 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: **PHS/SPCA cannot 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 pre-surgical vaccinations at our vaccine clinic or at the Spay/Neuter Clinic. The vaccines are \$15 each. Walk in times at the clinic are from 10:00am – Noon or 1:00pm – 3:00pm, Monday – Wednesday and Friday (except holidays). The Peninsula Humane Society's Low Cost Vaccination Clinic is held the first Wednesday of every month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.