



Feral Cat Coalition

9528 Miramar Rd. PMB 160

San Diego, CA 92126

(619) 758-9194

www.feralcat.com

Thank you for your interest in becoming a part of the FCC Weekly Vet Team. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that our volunteer veterinarians put in to help stem the tide of feral and homeless cats. Enclosed are the parameters for ear tipping, type of suture material and after care.

Currently we have over 20 compassionate Veterinarians who donate their time to help with the important work of spay/neuter of the feral cat population in San Diego County. Whether you can help with one or two cats a week or one a month makes a tremendous difference in the number of cats that are spayed or neutered every year.

There are three important items in this packet: the after care sheet "**Post Surgical Care for Feral Cats**" that is given to the caregiver, and the waiver form "**Vet Release Form for Caretakers**" that the caregiver signs when they leave the cat. The later is important for your protection as well as for the organization. Also, we are reinstating the statistics sheet "**Quarterly Spay/Neuter Statistics**" because of its importance in showing the complete numbers of cats that are altered. This information has been used to show animal control how much we do each year. It is also used in studies to provide the superiority of the TNR approach over other population control methods, in grant projects that could bring money to the problem and to our vets. The packet also includes information on easy ear-tipping and why we use steel sutures.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. For your information, Dr. Sharon Zito is our head veterinarian. She makes and maintains policy on any of FCC's medical issues.

Thank you for interest in becoming a part of a program that helps stop the suffering of unwanted animals.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard.

The Feral Cat Coalition Board of Directors

A free trap, spay/neuter and return program to humanely
reduce the suffering of homeless cats.

~ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE~



Feral Cat Coalition

PROCEDURES FOR WEEKLY VETS HOSPITALS

Please keep these key points in mind:

- ▶ Have the **Caretaker sign the FCC release form** (See the FCC "**Weekly Veterinarian Release Form for CARETAKERS**" sheet)
- ▶ **Keep traps covered** with a towel to minimize stress (stressed cats will often injure themselves by banging their face or clawing at the trap door.)
- ▶ **Handle the trapped animals gently, especially when placing on the floor** (paws can sometimes go through the bottom of the trap).
- ▶ **Do not open trap door until cat has been anesthetized and is asleep** (See our Anesthesia procedure on how to inject through the trap wire.)
- ▶ **FCC surgical protocol** is "0" and "00" catgut for ovarian and uterine pedicles. (The linea and skin are to be closed with interrupted stainless steel.) **Please use stainless steel** (4-0 or 5-0) in the abdomen and in the skin, it has proven to be inert, safe, secure – and a permanent, palpable marker that the cat has already been spayed.
- ▶ **TIP POINT of RIGHT EAR** by trimming approximately 1/4th inch **straight** off of the top with scissors (enough to be noticeable after the hair grows back) 1/6th inch for small ears or kittens. (See the FCC "**Ear Tipping**" sheet.)
- ▶ **All ferals 4 months & older are given Rabies, Penicillin, Ivermectin and Advantage** (All are provided by the FCC)
- ▶ **Ensure that proper discharge instructions are provided to the caretaker** if cats are discharged the same day of surgery so cats are not released before they are ambulatory. (See the FCC "**Post Surgical Care**" sheet) We suggest mayonnaise jar lids slipped into barely-opened trap door to offer water and food!

Please see our web site at www.feralcat.com for more information about our group as well as our full set of procedures and related articles on TNR (trap/neuter/release) programs.

Thank you again for caring enough to help alleviate the suffering of feral cats.

Sincerely,

The Feral Cat Coalition Board of Directors

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ANESTHESIA PROCEDURE

Before anesthetizing each cat, check for the following:

- Tipped right ear, indicating cat has been spayed/neutered
- General health and appearance (weak or very thin? too young?)

Do not anesthetize extremely debilitated cats, kittens younger than four months, or those with food in carrier!!!

Handling Protocol TRAPS - Gloved assistant holds trap in such a manner that allows RVT to inject anesthesia into thigh muscle of the animal. The assistant may distract the cat by alternately blowing gently in cat's face and shaking the trap lightly.

CARRIERS - Place a large sportfishing net (18 inch, preferably strong cotton mesh) across opened carrier door: RVT holding net handle and back of carrier, assistant holding front of net loop and front of carrier in left hand, back of carrier in right hand. **In one smooth, swift motion, shake cat out of carrier into net.** RVT relinquishes carrier to assistant, while downing net to the floor (a half twist on the net locks cat in while **RVT stands on net handle**). Assistant places towel over cat and presses cat to the floor with gloved hands; RVT can now inject anesthesia. When cat is limp, assistant can lift cat (scruffing cat through net) back into the carrier.

PREPARE anesthesia mixture by adding **1 cc Anased (L.A. Rompum)** and **4 cc Ketaset** to **1 bottle of dehydrated Telazol**. **DOSAGE is 0.2 cc per 10 lbs.** Best case: 1 syringe/needle per injection per animal.

If the desired anesthetic affect is not achieved, you can give $\frac{1}{4}$ of the initial dose as a bump. Subsequent bumps are generally .01 or .02 cc given in 15 minute intervals until anesthetic affect is achieved.

Recommended Dosage By Weight Using Above Formula

WEIGHT (lbs.)	AMOUNT (c.c.)	WEIGHT (lbs.)	AMOUNT (c.c.)
4	0.08	11	0.22
5	0.10	12	0.24
6	0.12	12	0.26
7	0.14	14	0.28
8	0.16	15	0.30
9	0.18	16	0.32
10	0.20	17	0.34

ADMINISTRATION of anesthesia should always be done in a small room with the door shut!



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EAR TIPPING



TIP POINT of RIGHT EAR by trimming aprx. **1/4th** inch
(**1/6TH** inch for *KITTENS & small ears*)

Using scissors and the thumb & forefinger to pinch off the ear, make a straight cut across ear as shown above.

We recommend using (Monsel's solution) ferric subsulfate, NF for application on ear tip to prevent bleeding.

If bleeding occurs, use moistened styptic powder and apply pressure on ear by squeezing fingers together.

This procedure is necessary to identify cats that have already been altered & prevents putting the cat through unnecessary stress & anesthesia if trapped again.

AMOUNT CUT DEPENDS ON EAR SIZE



Feral Cat Coalition

Weekly Veterinarian Release Form for CARETAKER

Caretaker Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

To be eligible for the Feral Cat Coalition program, **I understand free spay/neuter is available solely for wild/stray unowned cats.** And, I certify to the best of my knowledge that this cat is unowned. If asked, I would be willing to give it up for adoption.

I certify that this cat has NOT EATEN on the day of surgery.

I understand the risk that all animals face when undergoing anesthesia, and will hold this veterinarian, the Feral Cat Coalition and its members harmless should a cat not survive surgery, or experience complication afterwards. **Veterinarians and the FCC are not responsible for additional medical treatment or aftercare of this cat.** Any cat that is deemed to be too ill or fatally injured may be humanely euthanized at the discretion of the veterinarian. Cats/kittens too ill for surgery or not meeting the veterinarian's criteria for participation in this program may be rejected for surgery.

I understand that the cat will have approximately ¼ inch of its **right ear tipped** to mark it as "fixed" and that it will receive a **free injection of Rabies, Penicillin, and Ivermectin** along with an application of **Advantage**. (unless deemed inappropriate by veterinarian.)

I promise to provide appropriate **post-surgical care** for this cat as set forth in the **instructions attached to this form**. I promise to provide this cat with sufficient food and water and necessary care on a regular basis when it is returned to the location from which it was taken.

I agree to pay all fees as set forth above for additional medical treatment requested by me.

Caretaker's signature _____ Date _____



Feral Cat Coalition

POST SURGICAL CARE FOR FERAL CAT SPAYS/NEUTERS

ACCOMMODATIONS

All feral cats should **be kept in their traps** until they are ready for release. Always **keep the trap covered with a towel** to help calm the cat. They will still be recovering from the anesthesia and must be kept somewhere warm and covered in a protected place such as a garage or covered porch. It is a good idea to **elevate the trap** slightly above newspaper over plastic (an old shower curtain for example) to allow feces and urine to fall through the trap and away from the cat. Check the newspaper under the trap to see if it is soiled and if it is, change the paper. Check the cat periodically to make sure it is breathing and is not bleeding heavily. Heavy bleeding is not a common thing to happen. If you have major concerns about the cat, call the vet who performed the surgery or contact an emergency veterinarian in your area (see "Veterinarian Emergency Services" in the yellow pages) and please keep your receipt and leave a message about the incident on our voice mail.

FOOD & WATER

The anesthesia may cause nausea. Therefore **food & water should not be offered until the cat is fully awake**. This is done by slipping a small cat food can or mayonnaise jar cover inside the trap by gently opening the front of the trap just enough to squeeze it in. Water can then be poured in through the top of the trap into the cup or lid.

For cats older than 4 months food should be offered the next morning – **kittens four months and younger should be fed when fully awake** – give them a small amount of canned food. Again a can or lid can be used to drop the food into from above. Or you can cut up a square of newspaper and put the canned food on it and slip it into the trap.

RELEASE

Release feral **male** cats the morning after surgery. **Females** should be kept an extra day. If the cat was **pregnant**, you may want to keep her 2 days just to make sure she is O.K. If a cat gets very aggravated or will not urinate or eat or drink, you should release sooner. If the cat has been **nursing kittens** and they are less than 2 weeks old, release her 10 hours after surgery so that she may continue nursing as soon as possible.

Always take the cat back to the place where you trapped it and where it is being fed. It is safest to release at night, for the cat's sake and yours. Place the front of the trap so that it opens on to an area as free of obstructions as possible and not facing a busy street.

THESE ARE SCARED UNTAMED ANIMALS. PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN HANDLING THE TRAP WITH A CAT INSIDE. IT IS RARE, BUT IF BITTEN, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION AND QUARANTINE THE CAT.

SUTURES DO NOT NEED REMOVAL

All feral cats are identified as being altered by a tipped right ear. This is to prevent putting cats through unnecessary stress and anesthesia if trapped again.

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QUARTERLY SPAY/NEUTER STATISTICS

For Weekly Vet Hospitals

Veterinarian(s) Name(s) _____

Location _____

Period ending: 3/31, 6/30, 9/30, 12/31 (Please Circle One)

	DATE	SEX M/F	# WEEKS PREG	H, P, L, PQ*	MEDICAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

H= in Heat P= Pregnant L= Lactating PQ= Post Queening



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QUARTERLY SPAY/NEUTER STATISTICS For Weekly Vet Hospitals

	DATE	SEX M/F	# WEEKS PREG	H, P, L, PQ*	MEDICAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS
16.					
17.					
18.					
19.					
20.					
21.					
22.					
23.					
24.					
25.					
26.					
27.					
28.					
29.					
30.					

* H= in Heat P= Pregnant L= Lactating PQ= Post Queening