

Trap-Neuter Return Guidelines

VETERINARY HANDOUT

The BC SPCA recently developed guidelines for branches in the organization that are engaging in Trap-Neuter-Return. These have some implications for veterinary practices. We are so thankful for your collaboration on these initiatives. Without your help, there would be far more unsocialized homeless cats than our communities could care for. The below information may be relevant to your practice.

CONTACT

If you have any questions about this handout or would like a copy of the full protocol please contact:

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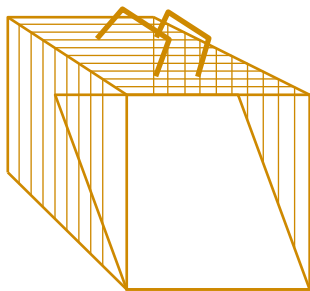
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Appointments

BC SPCA staff are asked to make as many appointments as set traps in order to be as effective as possible in addressing the colonies. **If more appointments are made than number of cats that are trapped, what is the plan to ensure the best use of the veterinary clinic and the BC SPCA branches time?**

Sedation

If cats are required to be removed from their traps, would the clinic prefer to sedate cats in a pre-weighted travel carrier or wire transfer cage?



TRAP



WIRE TRANSFER
CAGE



TRAVEL
CARRIER

Medical care

VACCINATIONS & DEWORMER

All cats must receive a FVRCP vaccine while the cat is anesthetized. It is up to the branch whether to provide a topical antiparasitic, but is recommended.

DISTRESS

If cats are experiencing any condition causing distress or pain, ensure the condition is treated. If the cat is not social and will not recover in an outdoor environment, branches will consult with caretakers and may ask for immediate euthanasia. Conditions like ear mites, wound care or hernias may be addressed or repaired during the surgery. In some cases, the condition is too severe. We ask veterinarians to make an assessment and discuss with the branch staff.

DEHYDRATION

Veterinarians may note that the cat is dehydrated and fluids are required to ensure adequate blood pressure. This may be an additional expense but if needed should be provided.

IDENTIFICATION

Cats must be provided with a visual indication that they have been sterilized, such as an ear tattoo or eartip. An incisional tattoo can also indicate if the cat has been surgically sterilized. Where relevant, a microchip can be provided that is registered to the caretaker in the BC Pet Registry.

PAIN CONTROL

All cats must be provided peri-operative pain control. We ask that the cats recover in the clinic to the point of anesthetic recovery. Cats should not leave the veterinary clinic until they can maintain a safe body temperature.

RECOVERY

We ask that veterinarians provide the cats a small meal of wet food and water during the recovery period, when they are sitting upright and alert. After leaving your hospital, cats will be held/monitored for 12-48 hours indoors after surgery. If you notice a lactating mother, please notify the branch staff. If you have any concerns about whether a cat should be released after surgery, please do feel comfortable to have that conversation with the branch staff and come up with a plan for next steps.

