



## **TNR PROJECT COORDINATOR GUIDELINES**

**These guidelines are designed to help you and caretakers interact appropriately and effectively with our surgery clinic.**

### **General Considerations**

We provide spay/neuter surgeries and related services **ONLY** for free-roaming domestic cats who will be returned to their outdoor homes.

Surgeries are available on an appointment basis. We can provide quick-turn appointments for some special issues such as pregnancy termination and drop trapping of trap-savvy cats, but arrangements must be made in advance.

All cats receive the same services: spay or neuter surgery, ear tip, rabies and distemper vaccination, parasite treatments, and post-operative antibiotic. When appropriate, at our veterinarians' discretion, cats may receive subcutaneous fluids and/or pain medication, and may be fed following surgery to enhance their recovery.

Please do not ask us to provide only some of these services or additional services.

Our high-volume, low-cost process cannot accommodate these requests.

### **Financial Considerations**

These services are provided at a cost of \$40 per cat. This is a very low-cost fee.

Please do not ask us to discount or otherwise reduce our fees.

All fees must be paid in advance, no later than at check in.

We accept cash, Visa and Mastercard, PayPal, and checks.

Unless previous arrangements have been made for clients requesting more than 5 appointments, we require payment in advance in order to schedule appointments. Clients who do not appear for their scheduled appointments without a minimum of 12-hours' notice forfeit their payment. If clients are unable to trap all of the cats scheduled for their block of appointments, we will provide a credit for future appointments.

In order for us to bill a community cats program, municipality, or non-profit that sponsors surgeries with grant funding, we must receive advance approval from those bodies and, as necessary, we must receive the appropriate approval code prior to making appointments. You or the caretaker are responsible for contacting those bodies in advance and for providing approval codes to our clinic manager prior to setting appointments.

For colonies outside of grant- or municipally-funded areas, our Surgery Subsidy Program covers some or all of the \$40 per cat cost, depending on the size and nature of the colony and the financial status of the caregiver. Caretakers seeking financial assistance must submit

completed Feral Cat Colony Tracking System sheets and an application for financial assistance in order to be considered for financial support. Processing of these requests can take up to 10 days from the receipt of the completed sheets and application.

### **Logistical Considerations**

We reserve the right to refuse service to those who refuse to use standard and safe approaches for implementing Trap Neuter Return, including the use of humane traps, transporting cats safely in vehicles, and providing appropriate pre- and post-operative care to trapped cats.

Prior to arranging for surgeries, please review our Surgery Clinic Quick Check List and Post-Operative Care Instructions and share them with caretakers, transporters, and others involved in the project to ensure compliance with our requirements.

If you are coordinating a project with a caretaker it is your responsibility to communicate these requirements to caretakers, to ensure that caretakers use acceptable practices, and to ensure that the cats receive appropriate pre- and post-operative care, including seasonally appropriate indoor shelter while in traps. We can help you fulfill this responsibility by providing free pamphlets, free TNR Basics training seminars, resources and tools via our web site, and other free educational services and materials to help caregivers properly implement Trap Neuter Return.

### **Three Non-Negotiable Considerations**

#### **WE PROVIDE SURGERIES AND RELATED SERVICES ONLY FOR FREE-ROAMING CATS WHO WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR OUTDOOR HOMES.**

**We do not provide services for pets or free-roaming cats who will become indoor pets. Please do not ask us to provide services for pets, for adoption programs, or for free-roaming animals intended to become pets.**

#### **Why do we have this requirement?**

More than 85 percent of pet cats are already spayed or neutered and responsible rescues and shelters spay or neuter every animal before placing it in a new home. In addition, many services are available that provide affordable spay/neuter services for pets and free-roaming cats who will become pets. (A list of services for pet cats can be found on our web site at [www.nobodyscats.org](http://www.nobodyscats.org)) Fewer than 3 percent of free-roaming cats are spayed or neutered. Our clinic is dedicated to increasing these numbers so that fewer kittens are born each year to suffer and die and so that cats who live outdoors have safer, healthier lives.

#### **ALL CATS MUST BE IN HUMANE TRAPS. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Cats arriving at our clinic in anything other than a humane trap will not be processed. Please do not ask us to accommodate dog crates, cat carriers, cardboard boxes, small animal cages, transport cages, or other containers.**

#### **Why do we have this requirement?**

Pre- and post-operative care and sedating for surgery is less stressful for cats in humane traps. It also is easier for us to keep them clean and warm and otherwise monitor their progress

during recovery from surgery. In addition, it is safer for our veterinary staff. Cats are not handled until they are sedated. This prevents escapes and protects our staff from bites and other incidents. If you do not have humane traps and would like to borrow traps from the foundation, email [traps@nobodyscats.org](mailto:traps@nobodyscats.org) or call 855-867-4228. Traps are available for a \$60 per trap refundable deposit. All loans include one trap divider and Trapping Tips document. Drop traps also are available.

**FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CATS, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER CATS TO OR FROM CARRIERS OR OTHER CONTAINERS INTO OR OUT OF HUMANE TRAPS IN YOUR CAR OR THE PARKING LOT.**

**ALL CATS ARE EAR TIPPED. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Please do not ask us to refrain from ear tipping or provide minimal ear tipping.**

**Why do we have this requirement?**

A tipped ear identifies the cat as a humanely managed free-roaming cat who has been altered and vaccinated for rabies. This protects the cat from being trapped and anesthetized again, makes trapping projects more efficient, and maximizes Trap Neuter Return surgery processes. It also protects cats from the pointless and ineffective practice of rounding up and killing cats in response to “rabies scares” and from being taken to municipally contracted shelters, where they would most likely be killed, a terrifying process for the cat that also results in waste of taxpayer dollars.