



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

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## Feral and Pet Cat Clinic Policies for Surgical Services

All policies are in place to insure the greatest safety for patients while they are in our care. Please read the following information carefully. By attending our clinic and signing consent you are agreeing to and accepting all of the clinic policies before bringing a cat for surgery. Our policies are intended to put the cats' needs first. ***Please note feral cats will not receive a physical exam prior to anesthesia/surgery due to the risk of handling these cats without sedation. Certain conditions found on physical exam (ie heart murmurs and arrhythmias, respiratory infections, etc) can increase risk of anesthesia, surgery and/or recovery. All pet cats will receive a physical exam prior to anesthesia/surgery.***

### Feeding

- Please take away food from cats after midnight for AM appointments and after 6am for PM appointments. Kittens under 16 weeks of age can have ½ of their regular meal up to 3 hours before dropping off. All patients can have water at any time.

### Surgical Release Forms

These forms must be completed legibly and signed prior to surgery. Incomplete or illegible paperwork will result in refusal of services and cats/dogs being returned unaltered. Please read all documents thoroughly and print legibly.

### Presurgical Bloodwork

Presurgical bloodwork is highly recommended for any cat over 8 years old. The Big Fix has the ability to perform necessary bloodwork but uses an outside laboratory which will require submitting blood samples at least 2 days prior to surgery. If presurgical bloodwork is declined you be required to sign a waiver stating you understand there is an increased risk associated with anesthesia, surgery and/or recovery in geriatric patients. Depending on case by case assessment by veterinarian some animals may be declined for surgery if presurgical bloodwork is not performed

### Right to Refuse Services

We reserve the right to refuse services to any person who engages in any inappropriate treatment of cats/dogs, medical staff, volunteers, Board members, other clients, co-animal welfare organizations or property.

### Microchip

All cats are scanned for microchips. If a microchip is found, no further services are performed unless the chip registrant is presenting the cat for surgery. We will attempt to contact the chip registrant and inform him/her how the cat was transported to the clinic and how best to retrieve the cat.

If a microchip is not found, one will be implanted. **ALL** cats are microchipped for their safety and to prevent them from being euthanized at area shelters.

### Tattooing

**ALL** cats will receive a small green line at near their surgery site to indicate that they have been sterilized to prevent them from having an unnecessary surgery in the future in the event that they become lost or are rehomed.

### Ear-Notching

Ear-notching is mandatory for ALL feral cats receiving surgery as a safety measure for the cat's benefit. A "V" shaped notch is cut from one ear-tip in order to visibly identify an altered, free-roaming cat. The left ear is notched on male cats, the right ear is notched on female cats. This helps to avoid future transport, stress and anesthesia. Kittens are ear notched proportionally less than adults.

### No Ear-Notching

We offer a "no ear notch" option for adoptable and owned cats for a higher fee to cover surgical expenses.



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### **Traps**

We accept feral-behaving cats only in appropriate, humane cat traps that have been fully covered with a larger towel or fabric to ease the cat's fear. If you do not have a trap, Poi Dogs and Popoki will loan you the required number depending on availability of traps. **Any feral cat brought in a carrier will be charged as a pet.** Please do not put more than 1 cat per trap. If you happen to trap more than 1 cat in a trap do not remove or separate them, we will accept both in the same trap in special situations like this. If there is insufficient room for multiple cats to recover in a trap, an empty trap/carrier must be provided to separate the cats while anesthetized and during their recovery

### **Carriers**

We accept tame/socialized pet cats only in suitable hard plastic or fabric carriers made for the purpose of carrying animals. Cardboard carriers and cardboard or plastic "tote" boxes are **not** acceptable. If you do not have a carrier, Poi Dogs and Popoki will loan you the required number depending on availability of carriers. Please be sure to line the carrier with a towel. We allow a few tame kittens (4 months or younger) in one carrier as long as there is sufficient room for their individual recovery.

### **Minimum Weight**

Two pounds is the minimum weight for surgery. Kittens weighing less than two pounds will be returned without being sedated or sterilized.

### **Medical Problems**

We do not provide full-service veterinary care other than spay/neuter. Medical issues observed by the staff are noted, and the information is passed on to the owner/trapper/presenter/caregiver. For feral cats, problems such as fight or abuse wounds may be treated, but this is not guaranteed. We do not dispense nor prescribe medications. We may refer you to your regular veterinarian if further care is indicated. On occasion and if circumstance allows, extra surgery may be provided to improve the quality of life for the feral cat at the expense of the caregiver/trapper/presenter/owner. Those individuals will work with The Big Fix manager for costing.

### **Euthanasia for Ear-Notched Cats**

Only free-roaming cats presented for ear-notching surgeries are considered for euthanasia due to health reasons. If the examining veterinarian believes a cat is suffering, determines that a cat is in very poor health, or believes that it is inhumane to return the cat to a free-roaming lifestyle, it may have to be humanely euthanized. In the event of this occurrence, every attempt to contact me (the registered caregiver/trapper/or presenter) will be made before euthanizing the cat in order to acquire informed consent or in the event that the trapper/caregiver wishes to take the cat to a private veterinarian for further assessment and treatment. If this is not possible, and our veterinarian deems the cat acutely suffering, the euthanasia will be administered without consent.

We strive to make accurate and humane assessments, but the choices are not always clear. If we have questions or need further information to assist in making a decision, we will call the contact listed on Surgical Release Form.

Cats presented for no ear-notch surgeries are NEVER euthanized without request by our permission from the owner/agent.

We DO NOT euthanize any cat that appears to be in good health.

### **Additional Services**

The Big Fix now offers vaccinations as well as on-site testing for feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). We also offer presurgical blood work services. Please visit our website under the Wellness section for services and prices. ( <https://www.poidogsandpopoki.org/wellness-program.html> )