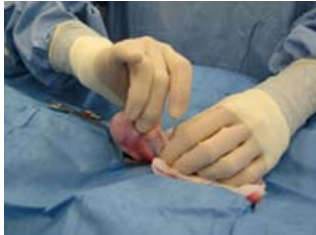


## Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

### Guidelines for Spay/Neuter



**Cynthia Barker Cox, DVM**  
MSPCA  
Boston, MA

**Natalie Isaza, DVM**  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Florida



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### Guidelines for Spay/Neuter

- Based on the ASV's Guidelines for Spay/Neuter Programs published in July 2008
- Authors were members of ASV's Spay/Neuter task force
- Veterinarians from shelters, academia, and HQHVSN clinics

#### Special Report

##### The Association of Shelter Veterinarians veterinary medical care guidelines for spay-neuter programs

Publication of Shelter Veterinarians Task Force Report  
Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs for Shelter Animals  
The Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) has published its first set of guidelines for spay-neuter programs in shelters. The guidelines are intended to provide a framework for developing and evaluating spay-neuter programs in shelters. The guidelines are based on the ASV's mission to improve the health and welfare of shelter animals and to reduce the number of animals in shelters.

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A shelter is defined as any facility that houses animals for the purpose of adoption, sale, or other disposition. This includes, but is not limited to, animal shelters, rescue organizations, and humane societies. The guidelines are intended to provide a framework for developing and evaluating spay-neuter programs in shelters. The guidelines are based on the ASV's mission to improve the health and welfare of shelter animals and to reduce the number of animals in shelters.



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## Guidelines for Spay/Neuter

### Three Sections:

- Veterinary Medical Guidelines
- Surgery and Anesthesia
- Identifying Neutered Animals



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## What do the guidelines say?

Animal shelters should require that cats and dogs be spayed or neutered prior to adoption



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## Poll Question

At what age is your organization performing spays and neuters on pediatric patients?

- a. 6 weeks
- b. 8-10 weeks
- c. 12 weeks and older
- d. Younger than 6 weeks

*Select your answer in the Poll box on the right*



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## What do the guidelines say?

- Surgical sterilization is the most reliable and effective means of preventing unwanted reproduction of dogs and cats
- 6 weeks of age and older



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## What do the guidelines say?

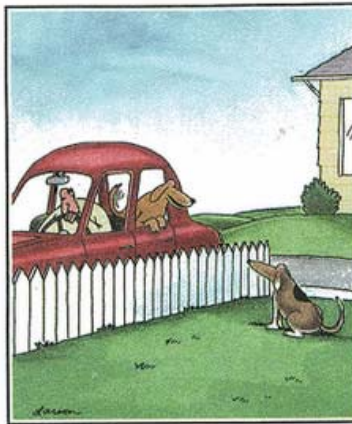
If voucher programs are implemented, an effective method of follow up to confirm surgery has been completed should be included



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## What do the guidelines say?

Allowing shelter animals to breed is ***unacceptable***



"Ha ha ha, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."



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## Veterinary Medical Guidelines

Spaying and Neutering must be performed by veterinarians or veterinary students under direct supervision of a veterinarian in compliance with all legal requirements



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## Veterinary Medical Guidelines



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## Veterinary Medical Guidelines



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## Veterinary Medical Guidelines

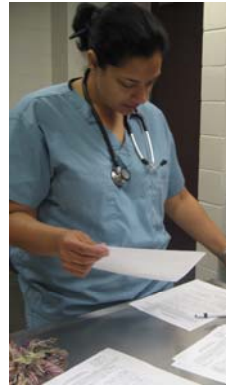
Controlled substances must be maintained in accordance with DEA requirements



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## Veterinary Medical Guidelines

Medical records must be prepared for each patient, indicating the surgical procedure and anesthesia administered



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## Question – answer in the chat

Of the following medical conditions, in which one would surgery be ill-advised?

- URI in a cat
- Generalized demodecosis in a 14 week old puppy
- Pregnant dog (last trimester)
- It is up to the discretion of the veterinarian



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## Veterinary Medical Guidelines

A veterinarian must make the final decision regarding accepting any patient for surgery



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

Appropriate housing must be provided for each animal before and after surgery



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

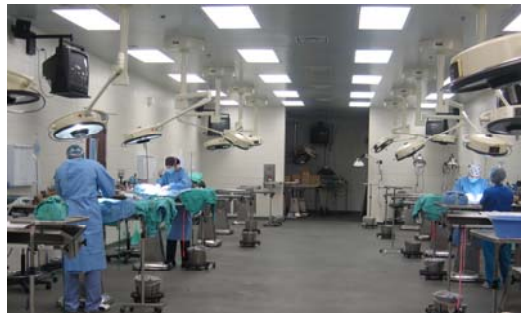
Animals who are feral should be housed in enclosures that allow administration of anesthetics



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

The operating room should be dedicated to surgery and contain the necessary equipment for anesthesia and patient monitoring



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

- The surgeon should wear appropriate surgical attire intended for use within the operating area
- Surgical caps and masks are *required*, except for routine castration of cats and pediatric puppies
- Sterile surgical gowns are *recommended* when performing abdominal procedures
- Single-use sterile surgical gloves are *required* for spays and dog castrations, and *recommended* for routine cat castrations



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

- Following hair removal, the skin should be disinfected with an appropriate surgical scrub agent
- Draping is *required* for all abdominal procedures and for the castration of dogs



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

For all surgical procedures:

- Gentle tissue handling
- Hemostasis
- Aseptic technique
- Verified hemostasis at the end of the procedure



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

Aseptic surgical technique is *required*, and separate sterile instruments should be used for **each** patient

- No sharing of packs between littermates!



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

### Surgical Procedures

- Ovariohysterectomy/Ovariectomy
  - Many variations of the spay procedure are accepted for cats and dogs, including length and location of the surgical incision
  - Complete removal of both ovaries is *required*

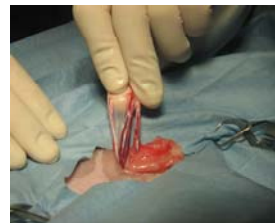


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## Surgery and Anesthesia

### Surgical Procedures

- Orchidectomy
  - Prescrotal and scrotal approaches are acceptable
  - Complete removal of both testes is *required*
  - For cryptorchid animals, both testes should be removed or referred elsewhere for removal



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

Suture or surgical clips must be of biomedical grade, approved for surgical use, and dated for current use



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

Balanced anesthetic protocols should be used

- Sedation
- Pre and post-op analgesia
- Stress reduction
- Muscle relaxation
- Reversible loss of consciousness



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## Question – answer in the Chat

Which of the following is not recommended for routine pre-medication prior to spay/neuter surgery?

- a. Dexdomitor
- b. Acepromazine
- c. Atropine
- d. Morphine



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

- Analgesic agents are *required* for all animals undergoing neutering
- The routine use of anticholinergics such as atropine may be associated with adverse affects and is *not recommended*



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

The routine perioperative use of antimicrobials is *not recommended*

- Antibiotic use should be reserved for specific indications, such as a pre-existing infection or a break in surgical asepsis



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

- Mask induction of anesthesia should be minimized because it causes stress, severe sympathomimetic effects, and bronchial irritation
- Anesthesia protocols that require intubation are safer for the patient



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

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Perioperative and intraoperative thermoregulation is best preserved by:

- Reducing contact with cold surfaces following pre-medication and during surgery
- Limiting body cavity exposure
- Providing carefully monitored patient contact with circulating warm water, warmed containers, or rice mamas
- Avoiding excessive scrubbing and use of isopropyl alcohol on the surgical site



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## Question – answer in the Chat

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The best way to monitor a patient's respiratory rate is:

- a. Pulse oximeter
- b. Respiratory monitor
- c. Direct observation of the patient
- d. Observing bag movement



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

All patients should be monitored by trained personnel



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

Plans must be in place to handle any emergency



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

In the post-operative period, care must be taken to provide patients with a smooth transition from the anesthetized state



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## Surgery and Anesthesia-Pediatrics

*"The AVMA supports the concept of early (8-16 weeks of age) ovariohysterectomies/ gonadectomies in dogs and cats, in an effort to stem the overpopulation problem in these species."*



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## Question – answer in the Chat

What is the proper amount of time for pediatric animals to be fasted prior to surgery?

- a. They should not be fasted
- b. 2-4 hours
- c. 6 hours
- d. 12 hours



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## Surgery and Anesthesia - Pediatrics

### Special Considerations

#### Hypoglycemia

- Only fast 2-4 hours prior to surgery
- Feed small meal immediately after recovery



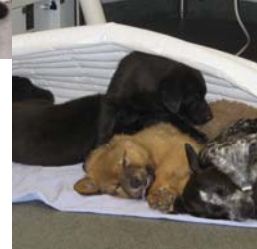
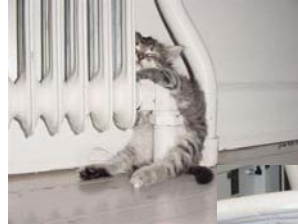
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## Surgery and Anesthesia - Pediatrics

### Special Considerations

#### Hypothermia

- Decrease prep time
- Smaller shaved area
- Avoid alcohol
- Supplemental heat
- Recover littermates together



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## Surgery and Anesthesia - Pediatrics

### Anesthetic Considerations

- Quick, easily administered, reversible anesthesia is ideal
- Many protocols are safe
- Must have accurate weight for proper drug dosing



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## Surgery and Anesthesia - Pediatrics

Gentle Tissue Handling! Remember, surgical technique influences post-op pain!



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## Identifying Neutered Animals

### Male Cats

Not neutered



Neutered



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## Identifying Neutered Animals

The use of a permanent tattoo is strongly recommended to mark animals at the time of spay/neuter



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## Identifying Neutered Animals

Removal of the tip of one of the ears is the accepted global standard for marking or identifying a neutered free-roaming or feral cat



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

Patients must be evaluated immediately prior to release; clear instruction, both written and verbal, for post-operative care must be provided

### Ovariohysterectomy "Spay" Discharge Instructions: A Client Handout



#### What is an Ovariohysterectomy?

Ovariohysterectomy (spay) is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. This procedure is performed to prevent pregnancy and to reduce the risk of certain diseases, such as uterine cancer and pyometra. The procedure is performed under general anesthesia and typically takes about 1-2 hours to complete.

#### Why have my pet spayed?

Spaying your pet has many benefits. It prevents pregnancy and the associated risks of uterine cancer and pyometra. It also helps to control the pet population and reduce the risk of certain diseases, such as uterine cancer and pyometra.

#### What will I expect about taking my pet home tonight, and what do I need to do for her?

After surgery, your pet will need to rest for 24-48 hours. You will need to provide her with a quiet, comfortable place to rest. You will also need to provide her with food and water, and monitor her for any signs of complications, such as bleeding or infection.

### Neuter Discharge Instructions: A Client Handout



#### What is a Neuter?

Neuter is the surgical removal of the testicles. This procedure is performed to prevent pregnancy and to reduce the risk of certain diseases, such as testicular cancer and prostate disease.

#### Why have my pet neutered?

Neutering your pet has many benefits. It prevents pregnancy and the associated risks of testicular cancer and prostate disease. It also helps to control the pet population and reduce the risk of certain diseases, such as testicular cancer and prostate disease.

#### What will I expect about taking my pet home tonight, and what do I need to do for her?

After surgery, your pet will need to rest for 24-48 hours. You will need to provide her with a quiet, comfortable place to rest. You will also need to provide her with food and water, and monitor her for any signs of complications, such as bleeding or infection.



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## Surgery and Anesthesia

Policies for managing complications and emergencies that occur within 48 hours after surgery must be in place



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## How many things can you find that go against the guidelines for spay/neuter?



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*Next Webinar in Series:*

**Shelter Guidelines: Group Housing**

Thursday, December 15



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