



Clinic Check-In and Pick-Up Instructions

Catnippers clinic is a busy operation that must be conducted efficiently if we are going to sterilize and treat as many cats as possible. Please help us make things go smoothly by reading this thoroughly.

IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION:

All animals face risks when undergoing anesthesia, and you will be required to sign a release which holds Catnippers, its staff and facilities harmless should a cat experience complications or death. You should also understand that any cat deemed by our veterinarians or staff to be too ill or injured for surgery may be turned away during check-in and referred to a full-service veterinary clinic. All pregnancies of feral cats will be humanely terminated.

BEFORE YOU COME TO THE CLINIC:

You must have a reservation in advance before you can bring a cat to the clinic.

Cats must not have eaten after midnight the night before surgery. The only exception to this is kittens who are four months or under. Kittens this young cannot go without food too long prior to surgery because their blood sugar levels will get too low. So for kittens under four months of age, wet food should be provided up until the morning of surgery. (See Pre- and Post-Surgery Instructions for more information.)

Feral cats must be brought into the clinic in humane traps. No feral cats should be brought in carriers, cardboard boxes, taming cages or makeshift carriers. Bringing a feral cat in a carrier is very unsafe because our vet techs must take the cat out in order to anesthetize the cat, which creates a VERY UNSAFE situation for both the cat and the vet tech. It's both safer and easier for our vet techs to anesthetize the cat through a trap, and it's also better to monitor the cat's recovery through a trap since it's easier to see inside.

Trapped cats must be fully covered at all times with a trap cover, towel or blanket. This includes being covered when you house them overnight, when you transport them to and from the clinic, and while they are at the clinic. If your towel or cover isn't big enough to fully cover the trap (reaching the bottom of the sides, front and back), then please use two covers. DO NOT USE PLASTIC TO COVER THEM.

If two or more cats are trapped in one trap, DO NOT attempt to separate them. Instead, bring enough empty traps into the clinic with you so that each cat can go home in his/her own individual trap after surgery. Make sure you bring a cover for each trap, too. If you do not have enough empty traps, still bring the kitties into the clinic the day of surgery as Catnippers may be able to provide some to you, depending on availability.

We cannot accept kittens less than two pounds in weight, or cats that are visibly sick. Cats must also be in good health to be eligible for surgery; cats with visible signs of upper respiratory infection will be turned away. Severely injured cats may also be turned away and referred to a full-service vet.

If there is visible food still in the trap, the cat will be turned away for surgery, due to the likelihood the cat ate after midnight and which poses a risk for vomiting during surgery. Make sure when you are trapping,

you do not put any bowls or cans in the trap. See our Humane Trapping Instructions on how to bait a trap properly using the aluminum foil trick.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES:

You must have a reservation in advance before you can bring a cat into the clinic.

You will be given a specific check in time when your reservation is confirmed. PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE CLINIC ON TIME!

When you arrive at the clinic, leave your cats in the car and come up to our check-in table to complete some paperwork. After you complete the check-in paperwork, our volunteers will show you where to line up traps so that your cats can be checked in.

On the check-in paperwork, you will need to provide your name, address, phone number(s) and colony address. Also, it's important to let the person checking you in know of any medical issues you are aware of with regards to the cats (i.e., pregnant, mange, tapeworms, etc.)

Please make sure you are available by phone and check your messages frequently that day. On your check-in form, make sure you list the phone number where we can reach you at all times throughout the day -- from the time you leave our clinic until we notify you that your cats are ready to go home. This is critical, as we may need to reach you in the case of an emergency.

Your signature on this check-in form is evidence that you have agreed to all Catnippers terms listed, so please read the form thoroughly.

PICKING UP AT THE END OF THE DAY:

Our staff will call you as soon as your cats are ready to go home. This may be as early as after lunch or as late as 5:00 p.m., depending on how many cats we have that day and how difficult surgeries are. There are so many unpredictable variables when working with feral cats that the completion time will vary each day.

Catnippers does not board cats overnight, nor is there any staff on hand to monitor cats overnight.

When you arrive to pick up your cats, the discharge coordinator will inform you of each cat's sex, estimated age, medical services performed and any special instructions or medications. Please make sure you understand any special instructions concerning post-surgery treatment.

Payment for any additional services such as FeLV/FIV testing or micro-chipping will need to be paid at pick-up. We accept cash, checks and credit cards (sorry no Amex).

PLEASE HELP US HELP MORE CATS. While our services for feral cats are free, it costs hard dollars to provide the medical care we deliver. We sincerely appreciate any donation you can make to our clinic. Catnippers is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible. Your generosity will allow us to help even more feral and stray cats.

Volunteers are always needed for both Catnippers and for our sister program, Best Friends Catnippers! Please see the admitting coordinator if you can contribute your time and talent, or know of others who might be interested.