



## BEST FRIENDS CATNIPPERS

### Caretaker Instructions Clinic Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Drop Off Time

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Pickup Time

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

#### Important General Information

The spay/neuter services of Best Friends Catnippers are available only for wild/unowned cats, and you must certify that to the best of your knowledge any cats taken to a Catnippers clinic cats are unowned. All animals face risks when undergoing anesthesia, and you will be required to sign a release which holds Best Friends Catnippers and its volunteers and facilities harmless should a cat experience complications or death. You should also understand that any cat deemed by the veterinarian to be seriously ill or injured will be humanely euthanized, and all pregnancies of feral cats will be humanely terminated.

#### Dropping Off

PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE CLINIC ON TIME! You must have a reservation, and cats must not have eaten after midnight on the evening before surgery. Cats must be delivered in individual traps. No cats in carriers, boxes, or makeshift carriers will be accepted (exceptions for airline-type carriers in special situations with prior approval of trapping coordinator only). We also cannot accept owned cats, kittens less than two pounds in weight, carriers with multiple cats, or carriers with food.

You must check your cat(s) in with the admitting coordinator. This is necessary to keep track of the cats. Please be sure to list all necessary information requested by the admitting coordinator. You will be asked to provide your name, address, phone number and cat description. Your signature on this release is also evidence that you have agreed to the terms listed at the top of the sheet. PLEASE READ IT!

PLEASE HELP US HELP MORE CATS. It costs hard dollars to provide the medical care we deliver. Please keep this in mind and be as generous as possible when making your tax-deductible donation so we can help other feral and stray cats. Volunteers are always needed! Please see the admitting coordinator if you can contribute your time and talent, or know of others who might be interested.

Tell the admitting coordinator about any known medical condition of the cat(s). This will help the veterinarian to provide needed treatment. The cats will be altered, vaccinated (FVRCP, rabies), and receive an injection of antibiotics and Ivermectin (for parasites). We also administer dental treatment, grooming and flea treatment (Advantage, combing). Extra and special-situation medications are provided as necessary. The tip of one ear will be removed to identify neutered animals. The attending veterinarians have the discretion to put to sleep any animal found to have a medical condition making it inhumane to release the cat.

The admitting volunteers have to work quickly to organize all of the cats before the scheduled clinic starting time. They will not have time to answer complicated questions or to give a tour of the clinic. Questions about the program should be directed to a Catnippers volunteer at another time. PLEASE DO NOT WANDER OR LINGER AROUND THE CLINIC! The clinic space is generously donated, and we must not abuse the privilege. The clinic is very crowded on spay days, and only essential personnel should remain on the premises. **Before you leave, you will be required to provide us with a telephone number where we can reach you at all times from the time you leave until we notify you that your cat(s) are ready for collection. This is critical, as we may need to reach you in the case of an emergency, and we must be able to find you when it is time to start packing up all of our clinic gear. We will also provide you with cell phone numbers you can call on clinic day if you have questions or need to reach us. DO NOT call the vet hospital for information at any time.**

## **Picking Up**

Return to pick up the cat(s) at the time instructed by the admitting coordinator. PLEASE DON'T BE LATE! The clinic day volunteers have just spent a grueling day caring for the cats. A monumental clean-up task lies ahead, and it is unfair to expect them to stay late with unclaimed cats. Any cats not picked up promptly will be considered abandoned and are subject to being taken to Animal Services where a report of illegal animal abandonment will be made. If you are running late, or have an unforeseen and genuine problem, call the discharge coordinator at the number given you when you checked in. On the other hand, please understand if the clinic is running behind. There are so many unpredictable variables when working with feral cats (such as how many are females, which take longer to sterilize) that the completion time will vary at each clinic.

### Other Important Instructions:

- 1) The discharge coordinator will inform you of each cat's status and any special instructions or medications. Please make sure you understand any special instructions concerning post-surgery treatment.
- 2) Cats will still be recovering from anesthesia when you pick them up. Anesthesia makes cats feel cool, so keep them warm, covered, and in a protected place in the traps. If in a trap, elevate trap slightly on bricks or wooden slats (so urine and feces can fall through), and set on newspaper.
- 3) Monitor cats periodically. Stitches are absorbable and do not need to be removed. The cats may be released the day after surgery if they are fully awake. During kitten season, lactating females should be released within 24 hours of trapping. They will still be able to nurse the kittens after surgery. If you have concerns about a cat that is slow to recover, has an incision complication, or other problem, call our general number - (818) 377-9700 – and explain your problem. If medical attention is needed, the cat should be taken to a veterinary hospital or animal emergency clinic. The costs for this service are the responsibility of the caretaker.

**PLEASE READ THE SEPARATE INFORMATION SHEET ENTITLED "IMPORTANT DISCHARGE AND RECOVERY INFORMATION FOR CARETAKERS."**

**Best Friends Catnippers  
Contact Information:**

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