



## Before Surgery Instructions

Congratulations on your decision to spay or neuter your pet! What follows are instructions for preparing your pet for surgery. Please follow them carefully. Pets that are not properly prepared for surgery may not be able to have surgery as scheduled.

### What You Need to Know Before Surgery

- **You must have an appointment for surgery.** Call 518-374-3944, ext. 121 or 125 to make an appointment. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Due to the high demand for services our phone lines may be busy. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.
- **Animals must be in good health.** If your pet is showing any signs of illness such as coughing, sneezing, runny eyes or diarrhea he or she may be declined for surgery. See your regular veterinarian for care first, and then reschedule surgery when your pet is healthy.
- **Our veterinarians require that your pet be vaccinated *two weeks prior to surgery*.** Your animal will be around many other animals and might be exposed to something (just like when you send your kids to school). It takes two weeks for a vaccination to become fully effective. We can vaccinate your pet two to three weeks prior to your appointment for \$10.
- **New York State requires that all animals be vaccinated for rabies.** If your pet has a current rabies vaccination, you will need to bring the certificate to your appointment as proof (rabies tags alone will not be accepted as proof). If you do not provide proof, we are required to administer rabies for an additional cost to the owner.
- Kittens must be 12 weeks of age and weigh at least 3 pounds and puppies must be 8 weeks of age AND weigh at least 2 pounds.

### What You Need to Do the Night Before Your Appointment

- **Keep your pet safely inside** your home.
- **If your animal is over 4 months old**, do not allow him or her to eat any food after midnight the night before surgery. You may allow your pet to have water.
- **If your animal is less than 4 months old**, he or she may have food *and* water overnight.



## **What to Do When You Arrive at the Clinic**

- **For your dog's comfort, please give him a good walk** before you arrive at the Community Spay/Neuter Clinic.
- **If your pet is less than 4 months old**, feed him or her at 6:00 a.m. the day of surgery. Please be aware of the exact time your pet ate so you can give us this information when checking in. You may allow your pet to have water.
- **If your animal is over 4 months old**, no food this morning!
- **Drop your pet off at the clinic in the morning at 8:00 a.m.** Late arrivals will not have surgery and will need to be rescheduled. Please allow 20-30 minutes for check in.
- **Payment is due in full at drop-off. We do not bill.** We accept cash, Visa, MasterCard, and debit cards. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT CHECKS AS PAYMENT.**
- **The Spay/Neuter Clinic entrance is located on the right side of the APF shelter** at 53 Maple Avenue Scotia, NY 12302. The shelter is closed in the morning and the doors will be locked. Please come to the Spay/Neuter Clinic entrance.
- **Please leave your pet in the car** until you have completed the admission process.
- You must **complete the necessary paperwork upon arrival.** Our paperwork is a four-part carbonless form; it cannot be faxed or e-mailed.
- For the safety of your pet and our staff, all pets must be safely restrained. **All adult cats are required to be in an individual plastic or cardboard cat carrier** at time of drop off. One cat per carrier. If not, a \$5 cardboard carrier fee will be charged for each cat needing a separate carrier. Kittens less than 16 weeks can be no more than 2 to a carrier. **All feral cats/kittens must be brought in a humane trap** that is covered with a sheet or towel. One cat per trap. **All dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier.**

## **Reasons for Refusal of Surgery**

Our veterinarians perform a general physical examination on every patient prior to surgery and reserve the right to refuse service to any animal for which surgery is deemed a health risk.



### Reasons for refusal may include, but are not limited to:

- Animals over 4 months of age who are known to have eaten (including snacks or table scraps) after midnight the evening before surgery.
- Animals that were left outside the night before surgery (they may have eaten).
- Animals who clinic staff cannot safely handle (feral cats must arrive in humane traps to be safely handled).
- Feral cats who are brought in any container except a humane trap.
- Animals with known health issues, such as a heart murmur, may be referred to a full service veterinary hospital.
- Dogs who are nursing or in heat.
- Animals showing any signs of illness such as coughing, sneezing, runny eyes, or diarrhea.
- Kittens or puppies younger than 8 weeks OR smaller than 2 pounds.

If any of these situations apply to your animal, please discuss this with a clinic staff member when making your appointment. We may be able to make special arrangements if we know the issue in advance. This is for the safety of your animals and our staff.

### Pick-up and Home Care Instructions

- **Pick your pet up promptly, at 4:00 p.m. the same day as surgery.** We will remind you when you drop your pet off for surgery when your pet's pick-up time is.
- **Please note that we close promptly at 4:30 p.m. Please, arrive on time to pick up your pet!** We do not board animals. Our shelter staff cannot release surgical patients. If you do not pick up your pet at the assigned time and the Community Spay/Neuter Clinic has closed, you will need to come back the next morning to pick up your pet, and you will be charged a \$30 boarding fee (NO EXCEPTIONS).
- **You will be given instructions on taking care of your pet after surgery** when you pick him or her up.