



Clinic Instructions and Policies

This clinic is provided for healthy, feral/stray/abandoned cats only. Please contact us for referrals to other low-cost clinics for pets.

WHEN: Every Wednesday and Thursday

CHECK-IN: 6:30 am to 8:30 am

CHECK-OUT: You will be called when your cats are ready for discharge. We cannot determine the exact time the cats will be ready and if you arrive early, you may experience a wait. **Latest pick-up time is 6:30pm – SAME DAY.** We cannot hold cats overnight. Please pick up through the back of our building through the blue double-doors (near the picnic table) and follow the signs to the Clinic Recovery Room.

WHERE: Austin Humane Society, 124 W. Anderson Lane. Clinic intake is done in the Adoption lobby.

CLINIC RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required and can be made through our website at: www.austinhumanesociety.org

Cats with reservations are done first, in the order received and are guaranteed to be done that day. Cats without reservations are done after the cats with reservations are completed and if time allows.

EAR TIPPING

- Ear tipping is **MANDATORY**, no exceptions. All cats will have a ¼" tip of the left ear removed. Ear tipping is the universal sign a free-roaming cat has been fixed and vaccinated.
- **Microchipping.** In addition to an ear tip, Travis Co. cats may also be microchipped \$10.

TRAPS vs. CARRIERS

- **ALL cats must arrive in a covered humane cat trap.** We cannot safely sedate cats in carriers, boxes, crates, pet taxis, etc and they will not be accepted. Traps are safer for cats and humans. Cats arriving in anything other than traps will be charged a \$10 transfer fee per cat.
- For the safety of the cat, we cannot accept more than 2 cats per trap. If more than 2 cats are presented, you will be charged a \$10 transfer fee to separate the cats for surgery. Please bring a carrier for the extra cat for recovery.
- **Please keep traps covered at all times to keep the cat calm and prevent self-injury.**
- Cats must arrive in traps, but can be transferred into hard-sided plastic carriers after surgery if the carriers are presented at intake. Please make sure they are clean and include a light-colored towel for bedding.
- **Carriers NOT accepted** are soft-sided, cardboard, or completely closed carrier where the cat is not visible.

- For everyone's safety, no one is permitted to open a trap or carrier for any reason once inside our facilities. If trappers violate this policy, they will be held liable for injuries or damages sustained to the cat, any persons, or property.
- Only 1 cat will be returned to each trap or carrier after surgery for a comfortable and safe recovery.
- Please do not insert litter boxes in traps.
- Trap covers can be old sheets or XL towels. Please cut down sheets to prevent a tripping hazard.

BORROWING TRAPS

- Traps can be borrowed with a valid credit card to bring cats into our clinics only.
- Traps can be borrowed at the following times:
 - Community Cat Dept: Mon-Fri - 8am to 5pm
 - Adoption Dept: Mon-Fri - 5pm to 7pm, Sat. - Noon to 7pm, Sun. - Noon to 5pm
- Regular traps can be borrowed for 2 weeks and may be extended. Drop traps are loaned for 1 week.

KITTENS

Kittens must weigh a minimum of 3 lbs. Any kitten under this weight limit will not be sedated and will be returned without any services performed. Underweight kittens cannot be vaccinated for rabies.

MICROCHIPS

All cats will be scanned for a microchip. If a cat is found to be microchipped, the owner and trapper will be contacted and no services will be performed.

SICK / UNHEALTHY CATS

- **Surgical services are provided for healthy cats only.** If an obviously ill cat is presented, we reserve the right to decline services. Cats with minor injuries are OK.
- **If an illness or injury is discovered at the time of surgery, we will attempt to contact the caretaker.** If our vet believes that the cat is too ill to undergo anesthesia/surgery and is in too poor of health to live an outdoor lifestyle, surgery will not be performed and the caretaker will be contacted. The cat can either be euthanized at the caretaker's request or be released back to the caretaker to take to a full-service vet.
- **If the cat is deemed healthy enough for surgery by our vet and if treatment can be formed at the time of surgery, we will offer that treatment to the caretaker at an additional cost.** The caretaker has the option to authorize or decline treatment or to request euthanasia. If we cannot reach the caretaker while the cat is still under sedation, no treatment or euthanasia will be performed and the caretaker will need to take the cat to a full-service vet.
 - **Euthanasia for FeLV positive cats:** If a FeLV/FIV combo test is requested, caretaker must indicate their decision on the Cat Intake Form to euthanize the cat if it test positive for FeLV. Due to time constraints, we are not able to contact caretakers for this decision during the clinic surgical operating hours. Please read this for full descriptions of both diseases. We will not euthanize a cat based solely on an FIV positive test result. www.alleycat.org/resources/feline-immunodeficiency-virus-fiv/

PREGNANT or LACTATING QUEENS

All pregnant queens will be spayed and feti will be humanely euthanized. Because differentiation cannot reliably be made between pregnant lactating queens and post-partum lactating queens, all lactating queens will be spayed. If a caretaker suspects that a lactating queen is nursing kittens, it is the caretaker's responsibility to decide whether to present the queen for surgery and to care appropriately for the kittens. Although most queens will continue to lactate following spaying, we cannot guarantee adequate milk production or kitten survival and will not be held responsible for the outcome. Because fluid loss during surgery can affect milk production, all pregnant and lactating queens will be given subcutaneous fluids at the time of surgery.

POST-SURGICAL CARE

- **Post-surgical instructions, rabies certificates and medical record will be provided for each cat to the caretaker at discharge.** The post-operative instructions are recommendations by our veterinarian and we will not be responsible for complications arising from non-compliance with these recommendations.

- If your cat is experiencing abnormal signs (see Post-Op Instructions) during regular business hours (9am-5pm Mon-Fri), please call our Veterinary Services Supervisor at **(512) 685-0138** or bring the cat back to the AHS clinic to be evaluated by our surgeon. If you are calling after 5pm and feel that your cat needs immediate medical attention, please take the cat to your local vet emergency clinic. Reimbursement for post-op emergency will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and AHS does not guarantee reimbursement for fees incurred at other vet clinics.
- **We cannot provide follow-up treatment on illness or injures we treat.** The cat must be taken to a regular, full-service vet. Vouchers may be available for injuries or additional medical treatment through the **City of Austin (512) 978-0504**

BITES

Any cat that bites a staff member, volunteer or caretaker will be transferred to Austin Animal Center for quarantine without exception. Caretakers can contact (512) 685-0111 to reclaim the cat after the 10-day quarantine period.

RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE

We reserve the right to refuse future service to any person who engages in inappropriate treatment of our staff, volunteers, property, or cats. We may also refuse service to anyone who repeatedly fails to follow AHS clinic policies.

FREE SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE TIME OF SURGERY

- Spay or neuter with dissolvable sutures
- Brief physical exam
- Ear tip (mandatory)
- Rabies vaccination
- Flea & heartworm prevention
- Treatment for ear mites, roundworms & hookworms
- Pain medication
- Fluids, if needed

OPTIONAL SERVICES

These services are only performed at the time of surgery and must be requested and paid for at the time of check-in. See "Cat Intake Form" for current prices.

- FVRCP vaccination (*Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia/Distemper*)
- Feline Leukemia vaccination
- Revolution™ Flea/Parasite Control
- Microchip
- Test for Feline AIDS (FIV) & Feline Leukemia (FeLV)
- Convenia™ antibiotic injection *Convenia is paid for at check-out as it's only given if needed*

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