

Toronto Street Cats Feral Spay/Neuter Criteria and Practices

1. The clinic is intended for feral/homeless cats that are being returned to their colony. Cats must have a designated caretaker and the colony must be monitored and cared for on a regular basis.
2. Prior to registration, caretaker's must complete a 3hr TNR training course to ensure that the cats are trapped and recovered as safely as possible. Training courses are offered through the Toronto Feral Cat Project (www.feraltoronto.com).
3. Caretakers should advise the clinic as soon as possible if they need to cancel a clinic appointment (ie. attempts to trap were unsuccessful) via the torontostreetcats@gmail.com email account.
4. Prior to the clinic appointment, adult cats should be fasted (no food, no water) for a minimum of 4 hours and kittens for 2-4 hours.
5. All cats brought to the clinic must be in good health. Under no circumstances should a cat be brought to the clinic if they have obvious signs of an infectious condition like Upper Respiratory Infection (ie sneezing, nasal discharge, etc). Cats presented to the clinic in poor health will not be operated on and will be returned to the caretaker unaltered.
6. All cats must be at least 900g (approximately 2 pounds). Kittens weighing less than 2 pounds will be returned without being sedated or altered.
7. On the date of the clinic, cats must be dropped off at the Toronto Humane Society's Spay/Neuter clinic at the designated time by the caretaker who booked the appointment or an individual they advise us will be delegated the task. Cats should arrive in a 2 door, rear release trap or in a secure carrier (the trap/carrier will remain with the cat until pick up). Each trap and/or carrier must be clearly labelled with the name of the colony caretaker. The individual dropping the cat(s) off will be required to sign a surgical consent form.
8. All caretakers must be reachable by phone at all times throughout the day of the clinic. Should any medical concerns arise about the animals, we need to be able to reach you immediately. If you are unreachable, our veterinarians and staff will proceed to treat the animals as they deem appropriate
9. All cats are scanned for microchips. If a microchip is found, we will attempt to contact the chip registrant – if we are unable to locate the chip registrant, the cat will be returned to the caretaker unaltered.
10. After administration of an anaesthetic, cats will be examined, vaccinated for Rabies and FVRCP, treated with Revolution (a topical flea/worm prevention treatment) and spayed or neutered. **All cats will be left ear tipped** (to identify them as an altered free roaming cat.) All female cats will be receive a small green tattoo beside their spay incisions. This is to identify that the cat has been spayed.
11. All cats will be microchipped. The microchip will be registered to the colony caretaker. Should the cat be brought to Toronto Animal Services in the future as a stray, the colony caretaker will be contacted to retrieve the cat thus ensuring the cat is returned to its colony.
12. All cats must be picked up from the clinic by their colony caretaker, or an individual they advise us will be delegated the task, at the designated time on the day of surgery. Cats that are not picked up will be considered abandoned and handled in accordance with Toronto Humane Society policies and procedures. Any alternative arrangements must be agreed upon by Toronto Humane Society intake staff in advance of the clinic.
13. Caretakers are required to recover cats for at least 48 hours after surgery in a warm dry and secure location (please see post-operative instruction sheet).
14. Euthanasia of feral cats presented to the clinic for sterilization will be considered if the examining veterinarian believes a cat is suffering or believes that the cat is in such poor health that it is inhumane to return the cat to a free-roaming lifestyle. We will try to contact the caretaker before euthanasia, unless the cat is in severe distress and immediate euthanasia is the most humane option.
15. Toronto Street Cats reserves the right to refuse future services to any person who engages in inappropriate treatment of staff, property or cats, or any individual who knowingly registers a cat that does not meet the above criteria.