

Anesthesia Monitor-Tagger

The Anesthesia Monitor-Tagger monitors the cats for any complications that may occur as a result of the anesthesia, removes the cats from their cages when they are fully anesthetized, puts the cats on fleece pads, attaches the Paw Tags assigned to them during admissions, puts lubricant in the eyes and transports anesthetized cats to the Veterinary Examination Station. **This position requires a rabies vaccination.**

Safety First

- ✓ **Monitor the cat for complications resulting from the anesthesia**, in particular, irregular breathing, no breathing or vomiting.
- ✓ **Monitor the cat's position** as it becomes sedate. If the cat's face is blocked or its neck is twisted, tip the trap to reposition the cat, so it can breathe well.
- ✓ **If a partially anesthetized cat begins to vomit**, tilt the trap so that the cat's head is lower than its body. A partially awake cat can control its vomit reflex. **Do not remove the cat from the trap.**
- ✓ **If an anesthetized cat begins to vomit**, hold the cat with his head towards the floor, and use a cotton-tipped swab to clear the back of the throat. Do not use your finger. Have the veterinarians at the Veterinary Exam Station check the mouth for any remaining food or fluid.
- ✓ **Respiration should be >6/minute, heartbeat should be >100/minute, and gum color should be pink.** If the cat is not breathing well, or its gums are blue, take the cat immediately to the Emergency Station. **Speaking loudly and calmly say "cat not breathing" to alert vets to converge at the Emergency Station.**
 - *Note: Xylazine causes pale gums.*

Special Handling

- **When handling the cat, do not hold the scruff of its neck alone.** Always support its back and bottom, too. Support the cat's head without flexing its neck, so that the airway remains straight and open.
- **Keep the cat entirely on its fleece, including its tail, head and all of its feet.** Do not allow any part of the cat's body to contact clothing, skin or anything except the fleece, in order to prevent any contamination from cat to cat.

Station Alert

- Never open a cage containing an alert or semi-conscious cat.

Anesthesia Monitor-Tagger Instructions

1. **Remove the fully anesthetized cat** from the trap. Place the cat directly on a fleece pad, fuzzy side toward cat being careful not to let its head, feet, tail or any body part come off the pad. Do not leave the cat unattended: either hand the empty trap with its covers to a fellow Monitor-Tagger who is available or replace the empty trap on the rack.
2. **As time allows, transport empty traps** with the cover or sheet tucked under the trap handle to the Recovery Station for cleaning. Monitor-Taggers will team up to transport traps in an efficient manner.
3. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record to be sure the ID# matches.**
4. **Wrap the Paw Tag around the left front paw**, and staple the ends together so that it is secure. No information should be written on the Paw Tag.
5. **Instill several drops of corn oil lubricant into each eye.**
6. **Remove any collars, flea collars** or other items on the cat, and attach them to the trap's handle before taking the trap to the Recovery Station for cleaning.
7. **Check inside the plastic sleeve with the Medical Record for any Alert tags.** Use rubber bands to attach any Alert tags (**orange "URI," green "Food," red "Medical Alert," tan "Already Neutered"**) to the cat's left front paw.
8. **If the cat has vomited since induction, issue a red "Medical Alert" tag.** Write "vomited" on masking tape on the tag as well as note it on the Medical Record along with the time.

9. **Monitor the cat's respirations carefully**, and if normal, deliver the cat on its fleece to the Veterinary Examination Station. Support the cat's head without flexing its neck, so that the airway remains straight and open.

Station Closing and Cleanup

When the clinic is concluded:

- inventory the remaining supplies and repack the supply kits
- return the kits, station instructions, and any remaining items to storage
- wipe and dry all plastic sleeves inside and out to clean
- clean the area
- dispose of all trash
- wash all tables
- sweep or vacuum
- mop the floor.