

Bladder Express Technician

The Express Technician monitors the cat's respiration, pulse and color, checks the Veterinary Examination Form record to be sure the cat is a non-pregnant female and expresses the bladders of non-pregnant females and cryptorchid males. **This position requires a rabies vaccination.**

Safety First

- ✓ **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 transporting, do not hold the cat from 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

- **Do not express pregnant females. When in doubt, do not express!**
- **Do not remove any alert tags.**
- **Do not persist, if the bladder is difficult to express.**

Bladder Express Technician Instructions

1. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record to be sure the ID# matches.**
2. **Check the Veterinary Examination Form for gender and pregnancy status of the cat.** If the cat is pregnant, do not express the bladder and send it on to the Spay Boards Station.
3. **Squeeze the bladders of non-pregnant females and cryptorchid males** into the urine collection container provided. If the procedure is unfamiliar, ask for a demonstration.
 - If the cat seems pregnant and the bladder cannot be definitively identified, pass the cat on to the Spay Boards Station. **When in doubt, do not express!**
 - If a cat cannot be readily expressed, move on. **Do not risk traumatizing the bladder.**
 - If the station has more than 3 cats waiting, let the Clinic Supervisor know that assistance is needed.
 - If the urine appears bloody, **make a note** on the Medical Record including whether it was difficult to express.
4. **Transfer the cat** to the [Spay Boards Station](#).

Station Closing and Cleanup

When the clinic is concluded:

- inventory the remaining supplies and repack the supply kit
- return the kit, station instructions, and any remaining items to storage
- clean the area
- dispose of all trash
- wash all tables, including the central trough
- wipe down entire base of table
- remove tape from underside of table
- wipe as much of the overhead surgery lamp as can be reached
- sweep or vacuum
- mop the floor.