

# Spay Boards Technician

The Spay Boards Technician monitors the cat's respiration, pulse and color, and secures female cats as well as cryptorchid males to spay boards. **This position requires a rabies vaccination.**

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## 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.*

## Station Alert

- **If the cat has masking tape on the ventral abdomen with the note "Already Altered", DO NOT PUT ON A SPAY BOARD FOR SURGERY!**

## Spay Boards Technician Instructions

1. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record to be sure the ID# matches.**
2. **If the cat has masking tape on the ventral abdomen with the note "Already Altered", DO NOT PUT ON A SPAY BOARD FOR SURGERY!**
3. **Center the spay boards across the table**, so the ropes are accessible under the board at each corner.
4. **With the fuzzy side facing the cat**, roll the sides of the fleece toward the cat to help hold the cat straight and upright on the spay board. Keep all parts of the cat **ON** the fleece without the head, legs or tail extending off the edge.
5. **Check the Veterinary Examination Form to determine whether cats will receive a midline or flank spay.** Lactating cats that need flank spays will have a red "Medical Alert" tag.
6. **Secure pregnant cats and cryptorchid males on their backs.** Tie each leg to the spay board by sliding the slip knot in the rope above the hock or elbow, gently tightening the knot, then tying a half hitch wrapping the rope once around the leg at the metatarsus or carpus. The cat should be tied snugly and perfectly straight.
7. **Secure lactating cats on their right sides for flank spays, if so ordered.** Tie the hind legs and front legs together to the board using ties on opposite sides of the board. This results in the cat being secured diagonally on the board. Slide the slipknot over the joints of both legs, gently tightening the knot, then tying a half hitch (wrap the rope once around the legs) further down the legs (closer to the paws).
8. **Secure the rope to the top of the board through one of the slots** and slide the rope locks down the rope to the board to hold the cat in place. Rope locks need to be on the top side of the spay board so that the board can lay flat and secure on the surgery table. Bind the cat tightly enough to hold the limbs away from the torso but do not overstretch. Ties should be slack enough to allow normal circulation; tie downs should be snug, not tight. There is always excess rope; excess should be tucked under the fleece under the cat.

## 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.