

Surgery Scrubber

The Surgery Scrubber cleanses the incision site on female cats, cryptorchid males and normal males with friction followed by disinfectant. **This position requires a rabies vaccination.**

Safety First

- ✓ **Monitor the cats carefully.** 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 remove any alert tags.**
- **If a cat is not fully anesthetized,** call the Clinic Supervisor to administer additional anesthesia.
- **If the central prep area is contaminated at any time during or after the surgical prep,** the three-minute scrub must be repeated from the beginning.

Surgery Scrubber Instructions

1. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record to be sure the ID# matches.**
2. **Review the Veterinary Examination Form** and any alert tags to see whether other surgical sites need to be prepped.
 - If a wound or abscess is present, notify the Clinic Supervisor or Lead Veterinarian to arrange treatment.
 - Extreme care should be taken to prevent contamination of surrounding work surfaces.
 - If the treatment is completed at the Surgery Scrubber Station, document in the Medical Record and remove the alert tag.
3. **Check that the area is properly clipped of hair.** If not, return the cat to the Surgery Shaver for adjustment before starting the scrub process.
4. **Surgical scrub and solution-soaked gauze will be warmed before the clinic starts.** Keep containers on the warmers throughout the clinic. When the scrub and solution containers are empty, refill them from the pre-warmed stock that is kept warm during the clinic. When gauze runs low, replenish with more gauze being sure the scrub and solution soak completely into the gauze.
5. **For long-haired cats,** slightly moisten and lay back the hair at the edge of the clipped area with chlorhexidine solution (not scrub) to keep it out of the sterilized area.
6. **When handling the gauze,** hold it from the top and do not touch the bottom surface that will touch the cat’s skin.
7. **Use one gauze square soaked in surgical scrub to clean the shaved surgical site.** If the area is soiled, clean it completely before starting the 3-minute surgical scrub procedure. Once the surgical site is clean, begin the sterile prep using one surgical scrub gauze in the center of the prep area, circling toward the outer edge as you scrub. Do not touch the central scrubbed area once you have touched the fur. Avoid getting any scrub in the unclipped fur. Slowly and gently scrub for one full minute. If the scrub is too thick, then dilute it with surgical solution.
8. **Remove the scrub with gauze soaked in surgical solution** using the same circling pattern from the center outward.

9. **Repeat the procedure 2 more times** for a total of 3 times, minimizing the amount of scrub and chlorhexidine solution on the fur. Each scrub should be a minimum of one full minute. Be certain to remove all the scrub at the end of prep.
10. **If the central prep area is contaminated at any time during or after the surgical prep**, the three minute scrub must be repeated from the beginning.
11. **Lay an unfolded gauze sponge soaked in surgical solution over the surgical site**, squeezing out excess solution but leaving the gauze moist and avoiding the fur. Never let your fingers (even gloved) or anything besides the solution or chlorhexidine gauze sponges come in contact with the prepped area.
12. **Place female and cryptorchid male cats on the Surgery Prep shelves in the order they are prepped.**
13. **Male cats for routine castration** remain on the prep table until the Surgery Transporter moves them to the neuter station.
14. **Advise the [Surgery Transporter](#), if the cat is a cryptorchid male**, is infectious, or exhibits any other condition that causes concern.

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.