

# Surgery Shaver

The Surgery Shaver clips the incision site on female cats, cryptorchid males and normal males. **This position requires a rabies vaccination.**

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## 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 cat has masking tape on the ventral abdomen, double check the Medical Record for “Already Altered”, and DO NOT PREP FOR SURGERY!** If there is any uncertainty, confirm with the Veterinary Examination Station.

## Surgery Shaver Instructions

1. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record to be sure the ID# matches.**
2. **For surgical preparation, use the clippers designated for clean surgery** for spays, castrations and other sterile surgeries.
3. **For wound care, use clippers designated for wounds** to shave abscesses and other potentially infected wounds. Never use these contaminated clippers for a spay or neuter surgical site.
4. **For ringworm suspect cats, use clean clippers,** followed by placing them in a plastic baggie labelled “Ringworm” for special disinfection.
5. **Check the Veterinary Examination Form to determine whether cats will receive a midline or flank spay.**
  - Flank spays are performed on females that are lactating and not pregnant. Check the Veterinary Examination Form for an order to prep for flank spay. With the cat on her right side, shave a 5” by 5” square on the left flank with the hip joint as the upper right corner.
  - Midline spays are performed on pregnant or non-lactating females. With the cat on her back, shave the abdomen one inch around the umbilical scar and both rows of nipples. If another scar or tattoo is exposed, contact the Clinic Supervisor to determine whether the cat has already been spayed.
6. **Check the left front paw for a purple “Cryptorchid” tag.** Midline preparations are performed on cryptorchid males. Extend the shaved area to include the scrotum for castration.
7. For routine castration, shave the scrotum and prepuce plus a two-inch circumference. Avoid the perineum to prevent fecal contamination of the clippers.
8. **Review the Veterinary Examination Form and any alert tags to see whether other surgical sites need to be shaved and prepped.**
  - If the cat has an abscess or infected wound, **DO NOT USE THE SURGICAL CLIPPERS.** Instead use clippers designated for contaminated prep.
  - Notify the Clinic Supervisor or Lead Veterinarian to arrange treatment for the wound or abscess.

- Extreme care should be taken to prevent contamination of surrounding work surfaces.
  - If the treatment is completed at the Surgery Prep Station, document in the Medical Record and remove the alert tag.
9. **Shave against the growth of the hair using a few broad strokes.** Slowly shave with the **clipper blades flat against the skin** using long slow strokes. If held at a right angle to the skin, the clipper blades will not shave as closely and the nipples may be nicked. If shaving too quickly, the blade cannot shave as closely to the skin. Tidy up any ragged edges so that the surgical area appears neat and square.
  10. **Capture all loose hair and place in trash.** Do not allow clipped hair to remain on the cat, it's fleece or the floor.
  11. **Clean the clippers after every few cats** using coolant spray and a toothbrush.
  12. **Clean, oil and otherwise maintain the clippers** before returning them to storage when each clinic is concluded
    - Spray the blades with coolant spray while the clippers are running.
    - Remove blades from clippers. Clean them by wiping off gross debris and brushing the teeth. Once clean of debris, use a tooth brush to clean with a disinfectant solution, then dry.
    - Apply oil to the clipper blades and wrap them individually in paper towels; place the blades in the appropriately labeled bag.
    - Wipe the clippers with Accel® to remove hair/dirt/debris, wrap cords, and store them in the supply kit.
    - Label any blades that need to be sharpened.
  13. **Disinfect contaminated clippers used for wounds or ringworm.**
    - Spray the blades with coolant spray while the clippers are running.
    - Remove blades from clippers. Clean them by wiping off gross debris and brushing the teeth.
    - Soak in Accel® solution for 10 minutes
    - Wipe the clipper body and cords with Accel® and allow to air dry, then wrap cords.
    - Dry the blades, apply oil, wrap them individually, and label for wound care only.

## 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.