

Veterinary Examination

The Veterinary Examination Station performs a physical exam to identify any conditions that require additional treatment or determine whether euthanasia is appropriate. These tasks should be completed in two minutes or less, thus, extensive notes are not necessary or desired. **This position requires a rabies vaccination.**

Safety First

- ✓ **Monitor the cat for complications resulting from the anesthesia**, in particular, irregular breathing, vomiting or not breathing.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Discards sharps from each cat in the biohazard container.**
- ✓ **Dispose of all needles and syringes according to protocol with no exceptions. Do not recap the needles.** Place the needle/syringe combination into a sharps disposal container. The needle cap can be disposed of in garbage or the sharps container.

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

- **Place the cat with its fleece on the scales to weigh.** Do not place the cat directly on the scales surface. The weight of the fleece is negligible for this clinic’s purposes. The fleece provides an important barrier against fomite contamination.

Vet Exam

1. **Previously neutered cats** (eartipped) admitted for vaccines only will be transported from the Admissions Station to the Veterinary Examination Station in their covered traps without anesthesia. Find the Medical Record that matches the Paw Tag number. Occasionally, ear-tipped cats will be discovered at the Anesthesia Station before being induced, so they will arrive at the Vet Exam Station conscious and be managed the same as cats with vaccine-only appointments. Make a visual assessment without removing the cat from the trap, check “Visual examination without sedation,” and record any observations. Place the Medical Record in a plastic sleeve, then send the cat in its covered trap with its record to the Vaccination Station.
2. **Anesthetized cats** will be transported from the Anesthesia Station to the Veterinary Examination Station on their fleece pads.
3. **Check the heart rate:** If < 100 bpm, alert the Lead Vet.
4. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record/Veterinary Examination Form to be sure the ID# matches.** Verify that no additional information is written on any alert tags. If it is, transfer that information to the Medical Record.
5. **Complete the DVM name, student name and time of exam at the top of the Veterinary Examination Form.**
6. **Record the body weight, temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate and mucous membrane color.** Keep the cat entirely on the fleece when placed on the scales. The weight of the fleece is negligible for this clinic’s purposes. The fleece provides an important barrier against fomite contamination.
7. **Record the estimated age, breed and sex.**

8. **If the cat is “Already Neutered,”** have the Lead Veterinarian confirm.
 - Note on the Veterinary Examination Form the *legible* initials of who confirmed the altered status and how status was determined (eg, lack of spines on penis, ventral abdominal tattoo, ear tip, etc).
 - Place a tan “Already Neutered” tag on the left front paw.
 - Place 15 inches of masking tape across the **ventral abdomen** to deter surgical prep from being done.
9. **If the cat is cryptorchid,** have a supervisor confirm and place a purple “Cryptorchid” tag on the left front paw.
10. **Scan for a microchip. Either circle “none found” or note the chip # in the space provided.**
 - Notify the Clinic Supervisor, if a chip is found. Hold the cat at the Veterinary Examination Station pending instructions, but make sure the cat is closely monitored.
11. **Check the left front paw for any alert tags (green “Food,” red “Medical Alert,” orange “URI”) issued by Admissions or Anesthesia and act on these accordingly. Record the outcome of the tag issue on the Veterinary Examination Form. Remove the tag, if the issue is resolved at the Veterinary Examination Station.**
12. **Complete the physical examination and record abnormal findings.**
13. **Check “No significant findings . . .” if indicated.**
14. **Include additional notes but limit these to clinically relevant observations.** Keep notes concise. Write small but legibly.
15. **Select any special surgical preparation orders:**
 - flank prep (lactating)
 - cryptorchid prep
 - enucleation prep
 - whether wound care is needed
16. **If a special surgeon is requested** (frail, unstable, pyometra, etc.), check the appropriate box on the Veterinary Examination Form, fill in the desired surgeon’s name and place a piece of masking tape across the cat’s **ventral chest** noting the desired surgeon’s NAME.
17. **Request other procedures, if indicated.**
18. **If the cat appears to have URI** and has not been previously identified as such, affix an orange “URI” tag to the left front paw.
19. **If the cat has a medical condition** that needs further attention at a subsequent station, affix a red “Medical Alert” tag to the left front paw. Note briefly what needs attention and what station should provide it on the tape on back of tag.
20. **Record if SQ fluids are indicated** (late pregnant, lactating, dehydrated, URI, fever, other); write volume to be given on Medical Record. Affix a yellow “Fluids” tag to left front paw with rubber band.
21. **Record if Convenia® is administered** (severe wounds, pyometra, enucleation, amputation, fever, URI, etc.); record dose, then administer the injection and initial after administration is done. Add entry to Medical Record.
22. **Record if Baytril® is administered** (pyometra); record dose, then administer the injection and initial after administration is done. Add entry to Medical Record.
23. **Dispose of the used syringes and needles in sharps container. Do not recap or reuse.**
24. **Select TO GO HOME orders, if indicated.**
25. **Summarize significant findings and home instructions** in language suitable for cat caregivers to understand and comply with in the box in the lower right corner of the form.
26. Place Medical Record/Veterinary Examination Form into the plastic sleeve.
27. **Transport the cat** on its fleece with the form to the next station:
 - Vaccination station for ear-tipped cats
 - Prep-Prep station for all other cats.

Station Closing and Cleanup

When the clinic is concluded

- inventory the remaining supplies and repack the station kit
- put the kit and all equipment on the red metal cart

- return all drugs to the Clinic Supervisor
- return the cart to storage
- clean the area
- dispose of all trash including the plastic covering from the tables
- wash all tables
- return tables to Anatomy
- sweep or vacuum
- mop the floor.