

**MVMA STATE FAIR SURGERY SUITE  
TECHNICIAN RESPONSIBILITIES  
MVMA office 651-645-7533**

Arrive at the surgery suite early enough to meet the humane organization driver that is transporting that day's animals.

Check for the following:

- 1) Gender (shave female-no scar, and palpate male-2 descended testicles)
- 2) Check for umbilical hernia
- 3) Healthy on appearance

Confirm the correct humane society name to post on the exterior of the suite, and that the driver is aware of pick-up time. If any patient is not a candidate for surgery, do not let the driver leave. Call Becky Bernard at the Animal Humane Society in St. Paul (651-260-2530) to ask for a replacement animal & advise driver.

Put on scrubs. Tell student to do same. Put literature rack outside suite. Take two photos of each animal, attach Velcro to back, post on the two display boards at either end of the suite.

9:00-9:30 am: Weigh each patient & record weight on ID card. Put ID card on each cage.

Perform an IDEXX Autoread blood count, a Vet Scan chemistry rotor and a simple clot time on all 4 patients. Draw about 3 mls of blood (remember to save better vein for catheter); immediately dispense 1 ml blood into a plain glass tube, set timer & check for clotting at 3 min, 4 min, 5 min. Run chemistry miniscreen and Autoread while waiting. If not clotting by 5 min, perform an Activated Clotting Time on that patient (directions are with the ACT tubes). If any abnormal results, bring to attention of morning veterinarian who will decide whether severe enough to ask for a replacement patient.

Insert IV catheters. With veterinarian, clip cephalic vein, scrub once with Betadine, insert IV catheter, secure catheter with tape, place injection cap on catheter, flush with heparinized saline, and wrap with

Vet-Wrap. Try to place catheters in all 4 patients at this time, but at least 2. Veterinarian should perform a physical exam on the first 2 patient. \* It would be ideal for the veterinarian to perform a physical exam on all the patients in case one has a symptom or condition that may necessitate a replacement animal.

9:45 am: Administer IM sedation for cats, or IM or SC pre-meds to dogs (see new chart). Try to select any dog in heat or with hyper behavior for morning surgeries.

Place surgeon's size gown, gloves, cap, mask, and preferred suture, blade, and gauze. Once surgeon is dressed in scrubs, adjust table height and then turn on video equipment and adjust focus on camera. Place wrapped pack in surgery with supplies.

Get anesthesia machine ready (verify Isoflurane in, F-Aire canister connected & not expired, oxygen connected). Prepare induction meds, endotracheal tube, tie gauze, and IV fluids. Record animal's name/ID on the anesthesia record, adopter's sheet, and first line of humane society sheet. Record the bottle #'s and dosages of diazepam, ketamine, morphine, and buprenorphine on drug log.

10: 00 am: Verify that moderator is ready. Start preparation DVD once moderator has made introductory statement. Bring dog/cat into prep room. Assist surgeon with IV induction for dogs (ketamine:diazepma mixed). Give ½ volume slowly, then to effect! Intubate, secure endotracheal tube, inflate cuff, and connect to Isoflurane. Attach LRS drip to IV catheter. Attach pulse oximeter.

Surgeon should cap, mask and begin 5 minute scrub.

Express patient's bladder, clip wide and long surgical area, and vacuum loose hair. Put on your cap and mask. Perform surgical scrub of area with 3 cycles of Betadine scrub followed by alcohol. Remove pulse oximeter. With student assisting (also wearing scrubs and mask), transport patient into surgery and place on table. Attach Surgivet monitor. Place "Bair Hugger" blanket on/around animal. Turn on lights, and open pack outer wrap. Once prep DVD is finished, stop DVD and make do final adjustment of camera position

and focus. Perform final scrub of Betadine and alcohol after all adjustments are made.

Dog/cat must be monitored under anesthesia and vital signs recorded on anesthesia record. The vet student helps surgeon glove and gown, and remains ready during surgery to provide extra suture etc. if needed.

11:00 am: Once surgery is complete, keep patient on oxygen until patient is ready to be extubated. Once the patient is extubated, return patient to prep room, place on heating pad, and cover with a towel. Replace pulse oximeter. Use the "post-op" "Bair Hugger" unit. Start neuter DVD. Clean incision site with hydrogen peroxide and have student monitor the patient. Discontinue IV fluid drip, but leave IV catheter in place until patient is sternal. Check temperature. If patient is hypothermic, keep patient on heating pad as long as possible but do not use heating pad in cage unsupervised. Move to cage. Cover with towels or use hot-water bottle if needed. Student should continue to monitor the patient.

11:15-11:30 am: Clean surgery room if needed, wash instruments and re-wrap pack. Reproductive tissue should be discarded in the red biohazard bag. Make sure prep DVD is ready. Make sure meds are recorded in drug log and humane society sheet. Record any pertinent surgery comments in anesthesia log.

Check on patient. Remove catheter once sternal.  
Flush catheters of other dogs/cats with heparinized saline.

11:30 am: Take short break, if time permits.

11:45 am: see 9:45 am above - IM or SC meds to dog/cat and lay out surgeon equipment. Consider autoclaving used pack, if time allows.

12:00 noon: Second surgery, see 10:00

1:00-1:30 pm: Surgeon for the morning should remain in the unit until the second patient sternal and making a full recovery. Afternoon staff should arrive 1:00. Clean and re-wrap second pack. PM surgeon should perform

physical examinations on last 2 patients. Place remaining IV catheters if needed. If IV catheters were placed in the morning, flush catheters with heparinized saline again.

1:45 pm: IM or SC meds to 3rd dog/cat. Verify new surgeon's equipment choices. Adjust table and lights if necessary and recheck camera.

2:00 pm: Third surgery, see 10:00 am

3:00 pm: Recovery and clean-up, see 11:00 am

3:45 pm: IM or SC meds to 4th dog/cat, see 9:45 am. Be sure prep DVD is ready, and that all meds and any complications recorded.

4:00 pm: Fourth surgery, see 10:00

5:00 pm: Recovery and clean-up, see 1:00. Afternoon surgeon should stay in the unit until 4th patient is sternal and recovering without complications.

5:30-7:00 pm: Start evening DVD on continuous loop. Clean any remaining instruments, repack, and autoclave. If needed, autoclave more 4x4 gauze. Clean endotracheal tubes. Turn off oxygen, fill Isoflurane if needed. Record hours on F-Aire canister, change if needed (good for 12 hours). Check soda-lime. Have humane society sheet and 4 owner records ready to go. Also have post-op Rimadyl ready for the dogs and post-op buprenorphine ready for the cats. Clean surgery, prep area, wipe with Nolvasan, and mop floors. Refill scrub trays if needed. File anesthesia record sheets. Lock away any diazepam, ketamine, morphine, buprenorphine, butorphanol, and Domitor/Antisedan. Empty wastebaskets into trash can. Ensure that tissues are in biohazard bag, separate from other garbage. Be sure the biohazard bag is correctly labeled. For the U of MN to continue to provide this service for us it is ESSENTIAL that this bag be properly labeled! Wrap a white tape tag around the neck of the bag with the day's date on tag and the following information: "From State Fair Surgery Suite. For D-lab fridge at Nurse's station. Surgery tissue for DISPOSAL ONLY." Give biohazard bag to afternoon student to transport to the U Small Animal admit desk. The people at the desk are to then

take the bag to the necropsy fridge at the nurse's station, where it will be appropriately disposed of. Check windows in surgery, and clean if needed. Discard any unused part of LRS fluid bag and IV tubing used. Empty vacuum if needed. Clean and check clipper blade.

7:00 pm: Humane society pick-up. Place cats in carriers. Most dogs can be walked out (use a slip leash). The last dog may need assistance. Check incision, membrane color, and CRT as dogs/cats go out. Give driver humane society info sheet, and papers for adopters. Remind driver that she can call U of MN Vet Med Ctr. if any dog/cat has problems overnight. In case of dehiscence, the organization should contact Dr. Culbertson at home 612-588-1156 or work 612-720-1492.

7:15 pm: Remove photos and humane society notice from suite signs. Bring literature rack into suite. Clean cages. Discard cage cards. Turn off air conditioner, fans and lights, and lock the suite. Leave evening DVD running - video equipment is on timers. Go home and relax - you will have earned it!

## General Information

There are checklist forms with this information for each day, to help you remember it all. Check off as you go through the day.

The veterinary student is there to assist you, but her priority while in the suite is patient recovery. Use her to your full advantage for restraint, cleaning, lab work, set-up, prep, flushing catheters, etc. but check that she is certain what the correct procedures are. They have been told this is not a time to practice unfamiliar techniques (e.g. placing catheters).

Some veterinarians may bring a technician, but you are still responsible for coordinating timing, etc. The veterinarian may use her tech as she likes. If the tech goes in the surgery suite, he/she must wear scrubs/cap/mask. If the vet wants the tech to scrub in, that is fine too, but she must glove and gown. Anyone who does not have scrubs can use

ours.

Trash, biohazard waste, and laundry will be handled as follows:

Dry towels should be placed in the laundry bag. Hang wet towels overnight to dry. Towel service will collect once midway through the Fair, then again at end of the Fair. If any cloth scrubs are used, place them in the cupboard in the kennel room for laundering after the Fair. Biohazard waste should be labeled with a white tape tag wrapped around the neck of the bag. It should be given to the afternoon student to take to the U of MN Small Animal admit desk. The people at the desk are then to take the bag to the necropsy fridge at the nurse's station. Dispose of trash in receptacles in or near the Pet Center building.

If you have problems (equipment failure, no-shows, supplies needed) call the MVMA office at 651-645-7533 and someone at the office will try to help you or put you in touch with someone else who can.

If an animal has complications, it is the responsibility of the veterinarian who is present to decide if the animal needs further veterinary care. Animals can be sent to U of MN Vet Med Ctr. (612-625-9711) for overnight observation if needed. The humane society will need to pick the dog/cat up in the AM. If an animal is having problems and all veterinarians have left, call or contact Drs. Kim Culbertson or Mike Strecker (phone #'s are on the bulletin board).