

**ANNEXURE F
VETERINARY PROTOCOLS**

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COMMUNITY CAT COALITION (CCC)

The **Community Cat Coalition**, a group of dedicated volunteers, provides services to the community through the humane management of stray cats in Auckland whether they be residing as groups in established colonies, or individually/collectively within the general community.

In addition to attending to their daily care, shelter, feeding and health requirements, the CCC aims to ensure that all stray cats are de-sexed, health-checked, and identified (both ear-tipped and micro-chipped) before being returned to their place of trapping. SPCA Auckland not only endorses the work of the Community Cat Coalition (CCC), but also supports the principle of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and provides subsidies for Vet clinics towards the vaccination, desexing and euthanasia of stray cats/kittens (details on page 2).

Things to note for physical exam:

- Weight
- Wounds/injuries
- Body condition/score
- MM color
- Ocular/nasal discharge
- Pregnancy status
- Lactation status

Reasons for humane euthanasia

- Signs of advanced FIV (squishy paw)
- Severe dehydration/emaciation
- Palpable abdominal tumor
- Cancerous lesions visible
- Icterus
- Palpable, significant renomegaly
- Severe/advanced corneal ulcers (unable to heal without continued treatment)
- Severe URI signs (thick purulent nasal discharge, increased RR/RE with lung pathology auscultable, severe oral/ocular ulcerations)

Animals that can be desexed

- Animals with signs of mild –moderate URI-sneezing, clear ocular/nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, nasal congestion
- Animals 800grams or over
- Animals that are thin or have an unkempt hair coat
- Pregnant animals
- Animals with minor medical conditions (see later)

Since spaying and neutering are elective procedures, typically a surgeon would choose to perform these procedures on animals who are completely healthy without any medical concerns either from injury or infectious disease. However, this is not always possible or advisable when working with free-roaming cats.

While one does not want to put the individual patient at any undue risk, one must consider the implications of postponing the surgery on the individual patient and the health and welfare of the colony or group.

For example, consider the following:

- Are you able to hold and treat this patient for longer than 24hrs with no undue stress?
- Will their health improve without treatment?
- Will we be able to desex this cat at any other time?
- What is the population impact of NOT desexing this patient?
- Can the Cat Coalition member care for the cat until the cat’s health improves?

Minor Treatments that can be done under anaesthesia/sedation

- Lance/flush abscesses - no cost to clinic
- Removal of rotten dentition (doesn’t require ‘extraction’ per say)—no cost to clinic
- Flea treatment for severe flea burden/significant FAD - **cost to be discussed with CCC member**
- Antibiotic use - while there are some medical conditions that need antibiotics we are also conscious of the danger of antibiotic resistance. We will leave medication decisions up to your own discretion.

Recommended payment schedule:

Medical intervention	Amount to be claimed
Male Neuter	\$35
Female Spay	\$50
Spay of heavily pregnant female	\$75
Microchip implant & registration	\$20
Euthanasia	\$10
Disposal (if required)	\$1.50 per kg of cat/kitten
Vaccinate	\$10

(Effective: 1 July 2016)

Length of time to hold cats at Vet clinic:

Cat types	When to return to site after surgery
Actively lactating female (nursing)	Same day
Healthy male neuters	Same day
Healthy female spays	Same day to 12 hours
Heavily pregnant spays	Next day (24 hours)

Note: Trapped cats to be admitted to the Vet clinic before 10am on a given day. The above return periods are recommended, however, Vet discretion to be used if cat needs to be held for a longer recovery time.

ALL CATS MUST BE EAR TIPPED IF BEING RETURNED BACK OUTSIDE - See handout

ALL RESULTS OF MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS, TREATMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS TO BE ENTERED ONTO THE COMMUNITY CAT COALITION TRACKING FORM AND RETURNED TO THE CCC MEMBER