

ANNEXURE G
EAR TIPPING PROTOCOL FOR STRAY CATS



Fact Sheet

EAR TIPPING PROTOCOL: STRAY CATS

Ear tipping is an effective and universally accepted method to identify a spayed or neutered and vaccinated stray/community cat. It is the removal of the distal one-quarter of a **cat's left ear**, which is approximately 1 cm, in an adult and proportionally smaller in a kitten.

This procedure is performed under sterile conditions while the cat is already anesthetized for spay or neuter surgery. There is little or no bleeding, it is relatively painless to the cat, and the ear-tip does not significantly alter the appearance or beauty of the cat.

Ear tipping is the preferred method to identify spayed or neutered stray/community cats, because it is difficult to get close to these cats, and therefore the identification must be visible from a distance.

No other method of identification has proven to be as safe or as effective as ear-tipping.

The Community Cat Coalition and SPCA Auckland **do not** support the following methods to **identify** desexed stray/community cats:

- **Tattooing** is not visible until cats are trapped and anaesthetised
- **Eartags**, which are ineffective and can cause infection, drop off or tear cats' ears
- **Collars** are not safe or practical. The collars can fall off or could get caught on something and severely injure or kills the cats. Furthermore, as cats grow and gain weight, the collars will tighten and could strangle the cats.
- **Microchipping** on its own is not effective as it does not allow for visual identification from a distance. We, do, however, recommend microchipping of all community as part of the efforts to humanely and safely manage the Community cats.

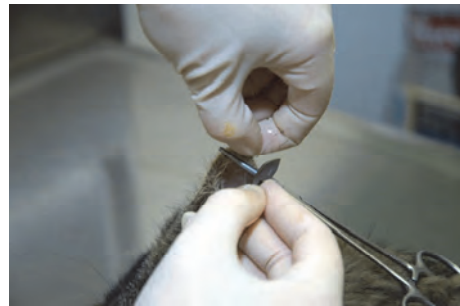
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EAR TIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

While the cat is still under anaesthesia, right after surgery:

1. Place a straight hemostat across the tip of the left ear exposing no more than 1cm for an adult cat and proportionally less for a kitten.
2. Use a straight blade or scalpel to cut the tip off, leaving the hemostat on the ear.



3. Apply a small amount of styptic powder to the cut edge
4. Keep the hemostat on the cat's ear until just before returning the cat to its trap, to reduce bleeding. A small amount of blood may appear, but it will not need further attention.

