



Prep Tech A

Prep Tech A monitors the cat's respiration, pulse and color, secures female cats as well as cryptorchid males to spay boards, expresses the bladders of non-pregnant females and cryptorchid males, delivers the secured cats to Prep Tech B, and cleans the spay boards when returned from the Vaccinations Station.

Safety First

- **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 CPR Station. Speaking loudly and calmly say “cat not breathing” to alert vets to converge at the Emergency CPR Station. *Note: Dexmedetomidine 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 pee pad, 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 pee pad, in order to prevent any contamination from cat to cat.

Station Alert

- **If the cat has masking tape on the ventral abdomen with the note “Already Altered”, DO NOT PUT ON A SPAY BOARD FOR SURGERY!**
- **Do not express the bladder of pregnant females. When in doubt, do not express!**
- **Do not persist if the bladder is difficult to express.**

Bladder Express Instructions

1. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record to be sure the ID# matches.**
2. **Check the Veterinary Examination Form for gender and pregnancy status of the cat.** If the cat is pregnant, do not express the bladder and move to the Spay Boards Instructions.

PRESURGICAL VETERINARY EXAMINATION

Examined by: _____ DVM _____ Student Time: **F19** –
 Please legibly enter the full name of the vet student

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Weight (pounds):	_____	Temperature F° (IRT rectal):	_____	HR:	_____	RR:	_____	MM:	_____
Estimated age:	< 3 mo	3-5 mo	6-12 mo	> 12 mo	Coat color _____				
Breed:	DSH	DMH	DLH	Siamese X	Other _____				
Gender:	male	male neutered	male cryptorchid	unknown					
	female	female spayed	pregnant	lactating	vulvar discharge				
Microchip scan:	none found	chip number: _____							
Eyes:	conjunctivitis	dried discharge	rupture	corneal scar					
Ears:	brown debris	tipped	scarred hematoma						
Nose:	discharge	trap trauma							
Teeth & mouth:	stomatitis	abscessed teeth	gingivitis						
Skin & coat:	alopecia	wounds	dermatitis	matted fur	self--trauma behind ears				
Feet & pads & tail:	wounds	pododermatitis	ingrown nail	declawed	polydactyl	bobtail			
Thorax & Abdomen:									
Body condition:	underweight	overweight							
Hydration:	5% dehydrated	8% dehydrated	10% dehydrated	>10% dehydrated					
<input type="checkbox"/> No significant findings to postpone surgery or requiring immediate intervention									
<input type="checkbox"/> Visual examination without sedation:									
<input type="checkbox"/> Other significant findings and notes:									

3. **Squeeze the bladders of non-pregnant females and cryptorchid males** into the urine collection container provided. If the procedure is unfamiliar, ask for a demonstration:
 1. If the cat seems pregnant and the bladder cannot be definitively identified, move to the Spay Boards Instructions. **When in doubt, do not express!**
 2. If a cat cannot be readily expressed, move on. **Do not risk traumatizing the bladder.**
 3. If the station has more than 3 cats waiting, let the Exam Station know that assistance is needed.
 4. If the urine appears bloody or was difficult to express, **make a note** on the Medical Record.

Spay Board Instructions

4. **Compare the Paw Tag and the Medical Record to be sure the ID# matches.**
5. **Center the spay boards across the table**, so the plastic tubing is accessible under the board at each corner.
6. **Roll the sides of the pee pad toward the cat with the fuzzy side facing the cat** to help hold the cat straight and upright on the spay board. Keep all parts of the cat ON the pee pad without the head, legs or tail extending off the edge.
7. **Check the Veterinary Examination Form to determine whether cats will receive a midline or flank spay.**
8. **Secure pregnant cats and cryptorchid males on their backs.** Tie each leg to the spay board by sliding the slip knot in the plastic tubing above the hock or elbow, gently tightening the knot, then tying a half hitch wrapping the plastic tubing once around the leg at the metatarsus or carpus. The cat should be tied snugly and perfectly straight.
9. **Secure lactating cats on their right sides for flank spays, if so ordered.** Tie the hind legs and front legs together to the board using ties on opposite sides of the board. This results in the cat being secured diagonally on the board. Slide the slipknot over the joints of both legs, gently tightening the knot, then tying a half hitch (wrap the plastic tubing once around the legs) further down the legs (closer to the paws).

10. **Secure the plastic tubing to the top of the board through one of the slots** and slide the locks down the plastic tubing to the board to hold the cat in place. Plastic tubing locks need to be on the top side of the spay board so that the board can lay flat and secure on the surgery table. Bind the cat tightly enough to hold the limbs away from the torso but do not overstretch. Ties should be slack enough to allow normal circulation; tie downs should be snug, not tight. There is always excess plastic tubing; excess should be tucked under the pee pad under the cat.
11. **Deliver the secured cats** to Prep Tech B.
12. **Notify the Surgery Prep staff if any cat is a cryptorchid male.**
13. **Clean spay boards** returned from the Vaccinations Station with disinfectant from the spray bottle provided in the station kit so the spay board can be reused.
14. **Gather and prepare all the cleaned boards** for storage when the last cat has cleared the Clinic Records Station.

All Station Images



Station Closing and Cleanup

When the clinic is concluded:

- Inventory the remaining supplies.
- Clean the surgical table.
- Clean the area and dispose of all trash in the dumpster outside.