SOP Number: **SOP053** Title: **Barn Cats**



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Author:			Responsible faculty: Mark Wallace		
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Purpose: Cats will be used as vermin control at TTU Agricultural Facilities. They do an effective job of keeping the mice and rats out of the feed supplies. The cats are vaccinated, spayed and/or neutered, to ensure the ultimate health and well-being of all animals. Cats will be identified with photo, name and description with records kept at the Animal Care Services office. All procedures and housing will be at Animal & Food Sciences Animal Holding Facility.

I. Procurement

Tame cats will simply be brought to AFS by pet carrier. Wild cats will be captured by live trap baited with canned cat food. The entire trap with cat will be brought to AFS. SOP046 Animal Transportation will be followed.

II. Housing

Large dog crates will be used to house the cats. A litter box will be provided. A towel will be provided for comfort. Fresh food and water will be provided daily.

III. Surgical Procedure.

Feline neuter

The cat is premedicated with atropine sulfate (1cc/20 lb) IM or SQ. Ketamine (2mg/1b) and Acepromazine (0.1ml/10 lb) intravenously or Ketamine (15mg/lb) and Acepromazine (0.1ml) intramuscularly (IM) is given for induction of anesthesia. An IV catheter will be placed in all cats to maintain blood pressure and to have venous access during a procedure. The hair is plucked from the scrotum and the perineum is scrubbed 3 times with alternating Betadine and alcohol. The skin is incised cranial to caudal over the testicles at the scrotum continuing into the vaginal tunic of the testicles. An overhead technique is used by placing a curved hemostat on top of the cord and wrapping the spermatic cord over it. Direct the hemostat's tip dorsally and then ventrally around the cord opposite the testicle. Next, grasp the cord near the testicle. Transect the testicle and pull the end of the cord through the wrap. Digitally snug the knot. The incision is left open. Longicil (Benzathine/Procaine Penicillin G) is administered intramuscularly at a dose of 1 cc per 10 lbs.

Feline spay

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The cat is premedicated with atropine sulfate (1cc/20 lb) IM or SQ. Ketamine (15mg/lb) and Acepromazine (0.1 ml) intramuscularly is given for induction of anesthesia. An IV catheter will be placed in all cats to maintain blood pressure and to have venous access during a procedure. The hair is clipped on the ventrum from the xiphoid to the pubis. The abdomen is scrubbed 3 times in a sterile manner alternating Betadine and alcohol. A 4-8 cm midline incision is made in the middle third of the caudal abdomen through skin and subcutaneous tissue to expose the linea alba. Grasp the linea alba, tent it outward, and make a stab incision into the abdominal cavity. Extend the linea incision cranial and caudal with Mayo scissors. Slide the ovariectomy hook against the abdominal wall, 2 to 3 cm caudal to the kidney. Exteriorize the uterine horn with the hook and identify the suspensory ligament at the cranial edge of the ovarian pedicle. Stretch or tear the suspensory ligament to allow exteriorization of the ovary using the index finger to apply caudolateral traction on the suspensory ligament while maintaining caudomedial traction on the uterine horn. Place two Carmalt forceps across the ovarian pedicle proximal to the ovary and one across the proper ligament. Remove the most proximal clamp and place a figure-8 ligature at this site using an absorbable suture (i.e., 2-0 or 3-0 polydioxanone, polyglyconate, or polyglactin 910). Direct the blunt end of the needle through the middle of the pedicle, loop the suture around one side of the pedicle, then redirect the needle through the original hole from the same direction and loop the ligature around the other half the pedicle. Securely tie the ligature. Place a circumferential ligature proximal to the first ligature, and then place a hemostat on the suspensory ligament near the ovary. Transect the ovarian pedicle distal to the clamp across the ovarian pedicle. Separate the broad ligament from the uterine horn. Clamp and ligate the broad ligament if it appears vascular. To ligate the uterus, place a figure-8 suture through the uterine body near the cervix. Place a second circumferential ligature closer to the cervix, place a Carmalt forceps distal to the ligatures, and transect between the Carmalt forceps and ligatures. Inspect the uterine stump for hemorrhage.

Close the abdominal wall in three layers (fascia/linea alba, subcutaneous tissue and skin. Use absorbable suture (2-0 or 3-0 polydioxanone, polyglyconate, or polyglactin 910) for body wall and SQ tissue and non-absorbable (32 gage stainless steel or 2-0 polypropylene) to appose skin. Fractious cats may receive hidden absorbable sutures to close the skin so that sutures do not need to be removed. Longicil (Benazthine/Procaine Penicillin G) is administered IM at a dose of 1cc per 10 lbs.

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III. Post-surgical care.

All cats will receive post operative pain management and evaluation. Butorphanol 0.2-0.4 mg/kg IM or Buprenorphine (Buprenex®) 0.01-0.03 mg/kg IM or buccal If able, a patient's heart rate, body temperature and body posture will be evaluated every 2-4 hours during the first 12 hours post operatively. Because body temperature drops during any surgical procedure, a heat source will be provided to maintain temperature post operatively. After surgery, animals will be monitored closely for complications, such as respiratory arrest or hemorrhage. When movement or vocalization occurs, patients will receive an analgesic. Based on evaluation, cats may receive additional analgesics. Fractious cats may receive hidden absorbable sutures to close the skin so that sutures do not need to be removed. Cats with non-absorbable sutures may be maintained post operatively up to 7 days to evaluate incision site. Suture removal will be done before cats are released to their home site.

The cats are vaccinated annually for Rabies, Feline Leukemia, Panleukopenia, Calicivirus, Feline Rhinotracheitis, and Chlamydia, to ensure the ultimate health and well-being of all animals. They are also de-wormed with Strongid-T, (1cc/10 lbs of body weight). Cats will be tested annually for FeLV if found positive, the animal will be euthanized with Fatal Plus (1cc/10 lbs of body weight).