

# MVMA State Fair Surgery Suite Student Responsibilities

MVMA office 651-645-7533

Maria Nellesen, CVT (MVMA sx suite staff) – cell 612-386-3633

Shelley Harpster (on-site CVT): 605-553-7451

Sx Suite Committee Chair: Dr. Krista Walkowiak 651-308-8160

U of MN Vet Medical Center: 612-625-9711

Thank you for volunteering to assist at the State Fair Surgery Suite. We hope you will find the experience interesting. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year the MVMA has conducted surgery demonstrations at the Fair, and this public education project has been very well received.

Your role in this demonstration is to provide general assistance to the technician and veterinarians. **One full shift includes two surgeries. Your priority while in the surgery suite is patient recovery.** The presence of the student assistant makes the difference between a smooth demonstration and a chaotic and stressful one so it is important that someone is present for every shift. We really value your assistance.

\* **Students on the morning shift are requested to be present in the Surgery Suite from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm.**

\* **Students on the afternoon shift should arrive at 1:00 pm and stay until about 6:00 pm.**

The on-site technician may let you go sooner or ask you to stay longer depending on how final cleanup and recoveries are going, but plan at least for the above times. If a personal crisis prevents you from working your shift you are responsible for finding another student with whom you can exchange shifts and notify the MVMA office.

## General Information

The purpose of the Surgery Suite is for public relations and education. We want to show the public that surgery on pets is taken seriously and performed professionally, with the techniques and care that people want for their pets. We want to demonstrate and discuss the value of professional veterinary care. We also want to educate the public about the pet overpopulation problem and promote spaying and neutering as an important part of the solution.

The dogs/cats used for the demonstrations are all from local humane organizations. They will be returned to the humane societies after the surgery and will be available for adoption. It is hoped these dogs/cats will benefit directly by being more adoptable if already sterilized.

The on-site technician, Shelley Harpster is responsible for keeping the surgeries organized and on schedule and manages the Surgery Suite. She will direct you how best to be of assistance. Although we want this to be interesting for you, constraints of time and an audience mean that this is not an opportunity to try techniques at which you are not expert (e.g. the technician may choose to place all IV catheters personally).

**Please bring your own scrubs** if you have them. You will be required to wear scrubs, a cap, mask, and shoe covers (provided) whenever you enter the actual surgery room. You will be encouraged to watch the surgery (although how closely will depend on the surgeon's preference) and to assist the technician as needed with anesthesia and especially monitoring recoveries. If an emergency arises, the suite is stocked with medications and oxygen for the veterinarian's use. We are committed to provide the best care we can for the dogs and cats, but with the awareness of the presence of an audience, whom we would prefer not to alarm. The surgeon will make all medical decisions.

**The students on afternoon shifts may be asked to take the small amount of red-bag hazardous waste to the university for appropriate disposal. We appreciate your assistance with this necessary task.** Please read below for the proper labeling of the bag and where to take it at the U of MN.

### STUDENT:

**If you cannot participate at the last minute for any reason - Please find your replacement and notify the MVMA office IMMEDIATELY.**

**If you are in the Clinical Skills class, please remember to bring your check off list to the Surgery Suite.**

## **Surgery Suite Schedule (for your information)**

**8:30-9:00 am:** Receive dogs/cats from humane society. Verify 1) gender 2) state of health 3) sexually intact status (shave females and palpate males). Confirm that the correct humane society name is posted on the unit. Put on scrubs.

**9:00-9:15 am:** Take two photos of each dog/cat, attach Velcro to back, post on the two display boards at either end of the suite. Put ID card on each cage with dog's/cat's weight.

Technician & veterinarian place IV catheters and cover with Vet-Wrap. Place all 4 catheters if time allows. Assist the technician in drawing blood and running a blood count, a simple clot time and mini-chemistry profile on all dogs/cats. Veterinarian performs a physical exam on the first 2 dogs/cats.

**9:30 am:** Give IM premeds to first surgery dog/cat. Lay out surgeon's gown, gloves, etc. Adjust table height/tilt, turn on video, and adjust focus on camera. Prepare injectable anesthetics.

**9:40 am:** Bring dog/cat into prep room for IV induction. Intubate and connect to Isoflurane. Attach LRS drip to IV catheter. Place pulse oximeter sensor on the patient's tongue to monitor patient in Prep room. Surgeon should cap, mask and begin scrub. Express dog's/cat's bladder, clip and perform surgical scrub of area. Remove pulse oximeter.

**9:50 am:** Wearing scrubs & mask, transport dog/cat into surgery and place on table. Attach Surgivet monitor. Assist with placement of the "Bair Hugger" blanket. Turn on overhead surgery light. Perform one more scrub.

**10:00 am:** **First surgery.** Dog/cat must be monitored under anesthesia. If available, help surgeon glove and gown, and remain ready during surgery to provide extra suture, etc.

**11:00 am:** Once surgery is over, return dog/cat to prep room. Replace pulse oximeter for monitoring purposes during recovery. Leave IV catheter in place until dog/cat is sternal. Place patient on the Bair Hugger blanket and monitor temperature. Move to cage. Cover with towels or use hot water bottle if necessary (if used, watch for destructive chewing). Monitor patient by checking respiration, mucous membrane color, comfort, etc.

**11:15-11:30 am:** While simultaneously monitoring the patient, clean surgery, wash instruments and re-wrap pack if needed. Record any pertinent comments about the patient on the anesthesia form regarding surgery complications, if patient were in heat/pregnant, etc. Remove IV catheter once patient is sternal. Flush catheters of other dogs/cats with heparinized saline.

**11:30 am:** IM premeds to dog/cat and lay out surgeon's equipment.

**12:00 noon:** **Second surgery** see 9:40 and 9:50am

**1:00-1:30 pm:** Surgeon for the morning will remain in the unit until the second dog/cat is sternal and recovering without complications. Afternoon staff should arrive at 12:30/1pm. Clean and re-wrap second pack. PM surgeon may perform physical exams of last 2 dogs/cats (if needed). If not all catheters placed yet, place them.

**1:30 pm:** IM premeds to 3rd dog/cat. Verify new surgeon's equipment choices. Adjust table/lights if necessary and recheck camera.

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

**3:00 pm:** Recovery & clean-up, see 9:40 and 9:50am

**3:30 pm:** IM premeds to 4th dog/cat.

**4:00 pm:** **Fourth surgery** see 9:40 and 9:50am

**5:00 pm:** Recovery and clean-up, see 11:00 and 1:00. Afternoon surgeon stays in the unit until 4th dog/cat is up sternal and recovering without complications.

Walk all dogs, make sure cats have clean litterboxes. Clean any remaining instruments, repack and autoclave. Clean surgery, prep area. Empty wastebaskets. Check windows in surgery, clean if needed. Empty vacuum if needed. Clean and check clipper blade. Clean cages and discard cards. Properly label the red hazard bag.

**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 this additional information: "From State Fair Surgery Suite. For D-lab fridge at Nurse's station. Surgery tissue for DISPOSAL ONLY" and transport the red hazardous waste bag to the U of M Small Animal admit desk. The staff at the desk is to then take the bag to the necropsy fridge at the nurse's station.

**6 pm:** Humane society pick-up.

Thank you for your time and dedication to volunteering at the MVMA Sx Suite! We appreciate you!