

PURRFECT CAT RESCUE

SPAY & NEUTER VOUCHER AND TRAPPING INFORMATION

Thank you for doing your part in helping to reduce the number of unwanted cats born by inquiring about our low-cost vouchers. Thousands of healthy, companion animals are euthanized yearly (about one every minute) simply because someone did not take the time to do what you have chosen to.

We offer two kinds of vouchers: Tame and Feral. The first is for those who wish to alter their own tame, family cat; the latter is for those who wish to spay or neuter free-roaming (feral) cats.

Owner-Assist/Tame (\$50): Simply buy a voucher, indicating which of our participating veterinarians you would like to use, make an appointment at your convenience, and take the pet in.

Feral Voucher (\$30): Using a feral voucher is a bit more complicated as there is a protocol to be followed. Because ferals—alternately called free-roaming cats—will be returned to the outdoors, one of the ears is tipped at the time of the spaying so they can be easily identified in future as a TNR cat (trapped, neutered, and returned).

It is important to note that non-adoptable cats being spayed and neutered need to be returned where they came from. If returning the cat(s) to your neighborhood is not an option, it is probably best to skip buying the voucher altogether and simply trap the cat so it can be taken to a local shelter. Cats cannot be moved from one place to another without a multi-week acclimation period that includes help from a daily caregiver; this requires more time and commitment than most people have, and an ideal spot for the cats which is hardest of all to find.

Whether or not it is tame enough to be handled, any cat spayed using a feral voucher **MUST** be taken to the vet in a humane animal trap, not in a cat carrier (sources for traps are listed below). Most vets can and will perform a spay/abort on cats that are pregnant. There is usually an additional cost for this at the time of the appointment; that cost varies by vet. Some people are uncomfortable with this choice but with thousands of healthy kittens euthanized every year we feel it is irresponsible to intentionally allow others to be born just to potentially end up in a shelter to be euthanized themselves.

(1) Purchase a feral voucher. (2) Obtain a trap. (3) Make an appointment with one of our veterinarians. (4) Trap the cat and take to vet appointment. (5) Recover and return outdoors.

If you are uncertain about your ability to trap the cat, it is a good idea to make appointments on consecutive days. Should you not catch the cat on the first try, you'll already have an appointment

for the next day and can try again (be sure to let the vet know you cannot make that days appointment if you do not trap the cat).

If you know the cat(s) you are trying to trap is especially suspicious/nervous, it can be helpful to prop the trap open (using a stick or piece of pipe) so that it cannot be tripped, and use it as a feeding station for a couple of days prior to attempting to trap. Place the food just part way into the trap so the cat can reach its head in and eat the food without actually entering it all the way. If it does this a few times it will see the trap as less of a threat; you can then bait and set it for actual trapping.

A neutered male will usually need about 24 hours to recover from surgery and anesthesia, so it can be released the day after the appointment. A spayed female—particularly if she was in heat or pregnant at the time of spaying—may require several days, or even a week, to recover. In this case, it is advisable to have a cage for her to stay in. It need only be big enough for her, some canned food mixed with water (eliminates need for two bowls) and a litter box; a cage similar to those used at our adoption clinics are fine for short-term confinement. It can be placed in a garage or protected outdoor location should you prefer not to have it indoors; a heavy blanket covering it will provide warmth and make the cat feel less vulnerable. If the cat is very aggressive and potentially hard to transfer to a cage it can be recovered right in the trap; ask us for suggestions on dealing with this situation.

Participating Veterinarians

Irvington Pet Hospital	41180 Fremont Blvd., Fremont	510-657-4060
Ardenwood Pet Hospital	4900 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont	510-791-8235
Veterinary Medical Center	33663 Mission Blvd., Union City	510-441-8500

Sources for Low-Cost Spay & Neuter other than Purrfect Cat

For Paws	40501-B Fremont Blvd., Fremont	510-573-4660
Ohlone Humane		510-792-4587
Fix our Ferals	fixourferals.org	510-433-9446

Sources for Traps

Cresco Equipment	36660 Fremont Blvd	510-793-5881
	\$42 credit card deposit, \$20 weekly rental fee	
Bogie's Pet Supplies	37985 Fremont Blvd., Fremont	510-795-6000
	\$100 deposit, \$5 daily rental fee	

Traps can be purchased at the following online retailers for between \$70 and \$90. We prefer one with an easy-release second door: [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com); [doyourownpestcontrol.com](https://www.doyourownpestcontrol.com); and [livetraps.com](https://www.livetraps.com)