

Answers to FAQs

What does the package include?

The Catmobile package includes: the spay or neuter surgery, a brief exam by our vet, rabies vaccination for cats over 1.5 kg (3.3 lbs, approximately 3 mos. of age), ear mite & flea treatment and nail trim. Nail trimming is part of the pre-operative surgical procedure.

How much does the package cost?

Female Cats: \$100.

Male Cats: \$75 – hernia repair is an additional \$40 if we are able to do it that day on the Catmobile.

The Catmobile doesn't service male cats with undescended testicles (Cryptorchidism)

Does the Catmobile package include a distemper vaccination?

No.

Can I just purchase a rabies vaccination?

No. We refer most people to the Luv-A-Pet Vaccination Clinic at your local Petco. You can also check with your local town to see if low cost vaccination clinics are offered.

What if I don't want/need the rabies vaccination?

If your cat has a current rabies vaccination, you must present the RABIES CERTIFICATE when you drop the cat off in the morning as proof. Otherwise, by law, we must administer a rabies shot for all cats over 1.5 kg/3.3 lbs (approximately 3 mos. of age).

Does the Catmobile package include microchipping?

It is not included in the package but can be purchased for an additional \$20 (includes registration). The Catmobile technicians will ask you during morning registration if you would like to add microchipping.

Can I just purchase microchipping?

Not on the Catmobile. If you want to make an appointment at The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society (MRFRS) in Salisbury, we will microchip your cat there for \$20. Please call our main shelter number at 978-462-0760 to schedule an appointment.

Can I just show up at the Catmobile when it is in my community?

NO! The Catmobile is by appointment only and appointments must be scheduled in advance. The schedule for the following day closes out at 4:00pm the preceding business day.

How do I make an appointment on the Catmobile?

By calling 978-465-1940 or sending an email request to catmobile@mfrfs.org.

When does the Catmobile operate?

We operate Monday - Friday with occasional Saturday appointments. To view a copy of the current schedule please visit www.mfrfs.org.

What if I need to reschedule or cancel my appointment?

Please call 978-465-1940 within 24 hours of your scheduled appointment.

What is the best way to get my cat into the cat carrier?

The easiest way to handle a cat that may not want to go into the carrier is to "scruff" the cat or hold it by the back of the neck. Then, while tilting the carrier up a bit on its end, lift the cat up and lower him/her, rear feet first, into the carrier and quickly close the door. It helps to have two people to do this but it is also the easiest way to crate

a cat if you are doing it by yourself. Scruffing is the way the mother carries her babies and it does not hurt the cat to be briefly lifted off the ground in this way. You can even practice lifting by the scruff of the neck before ever putting the cat in the carrier. Scruffing is also useful when giving medication to a cat. Holding it by the scruff of the neck helps to keep its head from turning while you are administering medication. You can also visit <http://www.wikihow.com/get-a-cat-into-a-pet-carrier> for further instruction.

What happens if the weather prohibits the Catmobile from operating?

If the Catmobile needs to cancel due to weather, we will post a message on our voice mail by 6am to update you on the status of the Catmobile for that days appointments. To access our voice message please call 978-465-1940. If the Catmobile cancels for the day, we will call you to reschedule your appointment.

What if I arrive for my scheduled appointment and find out that my cat has already been spayed or neutered?

If during the initial exam by our vet it is easily determined that your cat has already been spayed or neutered, there will be no charge for the appointment. (If a rabies vaccination is administered during this time there will be a \$15 charge. You are also still welcome to have you cat microchipped for an additional \$20)

If after your cat has been anesthetized, it is determined that he/she has already been spayed or neutered, you will be responsible for full payment.

Will my cat receive pain medication?

Yes. Pain medication is administered on the Catmobile only.

Will my cat receive antibiotics?

You will be advised at morning registration if your cat may need antibiotics. Our vet determines during surgery who will need antibiotics. This is an additional \$20 cost and needs to be brought back with you during pick-up just in case.

Can I get other services for my cat on the Catmobile?

No, we are not a full-service vet clinic.

Do I bring my cat back to the Catmobile for follow-up care?

No. The only services we provide are those which we perform on the Catmobile that day. We do not provide follow-up care. In the unlikely event that any complications arise when the cat goes home, he/she would have to be taken to the customer's own vet.

Will I need to come back to have the stitches removed?

No. Our vet uses dissolvable stitches and surgical glue to close the spay (female) incision so there is no need to return to have any stitches removed. (It can take up to 4 weeks for stitches to fully dissolve.) Neuters (male) do not require sutures.

Is my cat too old to be spayed/neutered on the Catmobile?

Our vet highly recommends pre-operative blood work for both male and female cats 2-8 years old. The blood work recommended is a Chem 25 and a CBC and can be preformed at your local vet office or by another clinic offering this service. This is not a service we offer on the Catmobile. The results should be faxed to our office for review. Once our vet signs off on the blood work, we will contact you to schedule an appointment. If you do not want to do the blood work, you will have the option of signing a waiver to have the procedure performed anyway.

We do not spay/neuter cats over the age of eight but can provide you with a referral of a place who can assist you.

How old does the cat have to be in order to be spayed or neutered?

The cat must weigh at least 2 lbs to undergo the procedure. Most cats hit that weight at 8 – 12 weeks.

What if my cat is in heat?

We are still able to spay her.

What if my cat is pregnant?

We will still spay her. (The fetuses do not survive the procedure.)

Do I have to bring a stool sample?

No.

Do you do pre-operative blood work?

No.

Will my cat be wearing a protective collar after the procedure?

No. Existing flea collars and/or decorative collars should be removed prior to your appointment.

Do you test for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) and/or FeLV (Feline Leukemia)?

No.

Is it safe?

It's a surgical procedure, and as with any surgery, there are always risks. We have a licensed veterinarian who performs the actual procedures, and there are also two vet techs on the Catmobile, so the kitties are very well monitored.

How often is the Catmobile cleaned?

Every night.

What about the surgical instruments and materials?

The scalpels use new blades in sterilized handles. We use new needles and the very highest quality, most expensive suture material.

Is it a vet who performs the procedures?

Yes. Our vet is Dr. Deborah Brady. She is licensed in MA, is a graduate of Tufts Veterinary School, and prior to joining the Catmobile had worked at the MSPCA.

Do you do all these things on the same day?

Yes.

How do I pay for my appointment?

When rescheduling your appointment you can prepay with a credit card (Visa , MasterCard, American Express and Discover). We prefer all appointments are paid for in advance.

If you are unable to prepay for your appointment, payment can be made with cash on the morning of your appointment. The technicians will collect your payment at morning registration.

I can't afford the full cost of the package– can you help me?

Occasionally, we may have some grant funding available to help further reduce the cost if needed. Please inquire when booking your appointment.

Why do I have to bring the cat in a carrier? What kind of carrier?

It's a safety protocol to protect you and your cat as well as our staff. For safety reasons, the carrier must be either hard plastic, vinyl, or cloth. NO CARDBOARD CARRIERS.

What time do I pick the cat up?

The Catmobile staff will tell you the specific pick-up time (late afternoon) when you drop your cat off in the morning.

Can I stay with my cat on the Catmobile?

No. There isn't room.

Do I have to live in Massachusetts (or the town where the Catmobile will be that day) in order to use the Catmobile program?

No. There is no residency requirement.

My cat has tested positive for FIV and/or FeLV. Will you still spay/neuter on the Catmobile?

Yes.

Do you spay/neuter feral cats on the Catmobile?

Yes. They need to be brought to the Catmobile in a covered trap. Please inquire about feral cat fees.