



VOLUNTEERS BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOP

- Intro. Welcome and thanks to all involved
- Brief outline of the workshop
 - Show video of work done by FOC - Introduce the committee
 - Reasons for spay days and how they came about.
 - Explain how through fundraising, individual donations, a municipal grant and LOTTO we have been and able to kit ourselves to be nearly set sufficient with an anaesthetic machine, autoclave (sterilises instruments), theatre lighting, gazebo, instruments etc.

Workshop notes Before the Steri Day:

Most animals have been seen at least once by Del who has either treated or vaccinated them and booked them in to be sterilised.

Some of the setbacks we can experience on the day is some of these animals are may have died, are lactating, owners are not there, are so poorly the procedure cannot be done, owners have moved etc., So it's not always as easy as expected. This can be time consuming and often delays the collection teams when things don't go as planned. We can sometimes have 40 on the list for the day and out of that we can only actually sterilise 20.

SPAY - Is an operation performed on a female animal, it is an invasive surgery as all reproductive organs are entire. Longer ops equates to longer recovery time, also more pain. Female ♀ Neutered Female ♀

NEUTER - is an operation performed on a male animal which is less invasive as reproductive organs are external and therefore less painful, shorter op and quicker recovery.

Male ♂ Neutered Male ♂

On the day.

There are three areas of work namely:

- (1) Veterinary/theatre.
- (2) Pre/post op.
- (3) Collection and delivery

We will work through each section and discuss the expectations of each.

1. Veterinary / Theatre area.

- This is carried out by the vets and trained assistants and most of this work is conducted inside the building. All animals are pre-medicated, sometimes in cages outside or in the case of cats in the building
- All animals are given pain killers and antibiotics
- All animals are anaesthetised and tubed, then taken to the surgery side and operated on.
- On completion they are taken to Post Op care. Even though this is a rural setting, great lengths are taken to ensure nothing is compromised in terms of sterility. Therefore, during operations this area is out of bounds to most volunteers.

2. Pre / Post Op Personnel

The amount of people needed in this area changes dependant on the number of animals being operated on. Duties include the following:

- Receiving animals from theatre - soft beds prepared, temperature control, ensure breathing, and nothing abnormal happening to the patient - bleeding, gasping, not breathing etc.
- dogs that are still intubated (dogs straight after coming from operating table still have an endotracheal tube). It is necessary for that to stay in place until dog wakes up. This is in case dog requires oxygen it can be given immediately by reconnecting tube to oxygen machine.

- Person must be very focused on the dogs recovery especially when tube still in, if they wake they could chew the tubes and choke.
- It is imperative that first signs of waking - blinking, swallowing, tube MUST be removed immediately.
- Cats generally are given a reversal injection, this hastens the waking up. Again it is important that personnel watch cats very carefully, as soon as they waken they should be placed in a safe cage or travelling box. If they are left unattended they
- will run off at great speed - at this point they are both stressed and half anaesthetised, a deadly combination.

Care should be given to animals temperatures as anaesthetic lowers temps, especially in cats, therefore depending on the season one should maintain appropriate temps - in winter a hot water bottle is necessary.

- Animals waking up - pat them firmly and confidently to get the circulation going and some reaction more so than a gentle caress. If you are at all concerned about their breathing a confident gentle tug on the tongue, or pinch between the toes can do the trick!
- Operated on area will be clean but also needs just to be checked for oozing, bleeding, excessive swelling before going into a box
- Ensure all jelcos/catheters are removed before boxing the animal.

Vicious dogs

Care should be taken - some dogs are aggressive and others can become this way due to the stress and confusion of the day. Travelling and the strange environment can make dogs aggressive as a fear based response.

3. Collection /Delivery Teams

Each team normally consists of two people who are responsible for the collection of the animals coming in for surgery. The front line as such. It is better to work in teams of two, as one person is caging the animal while the other can be ensuring the paperwork and information is correct - this ensures quick turnaround time for the animals and the vets are not left waiting for their patients. The team must ensure the following:

- the animals appear to be healthy and owner says all is well and good
- they must try and ascertain whether the animal has been starved that morning
- ensure appropriate tagging and identification of the animals being collected, address, photos etc so other teams are able to return the animals correctly. Photograph and place details on WhatsApp group for that day.
- All animals, should be treated quietly and with care. Accidentally banging or swinging of cages will scare and stress animals.
- Stress = fear = aggression
- If an animal is vomiting after pre-med or surgery, it should be placed upright on its chest on all four legs and head resting forward on front legs. Be sure to remove the vomit and any solid matter. Take care when putting fingers in mouth rather use a gag first, remember the animal is drugged and does not know what it is doing.

Delivery

When teams deliver the animals after surgery, many animals are dozy and un-coordinated and will need some time to recover. It is imperative that owners are given instructions on post op care.

Owners should be given the following instructions when animals are returned:

- keep animal as warm or as cool as possible depending on seasons and in a comfortable safe area
- the animal should be kept inside in a bathroom or small area for the night. Cats are of the greatest risk as they can get chased by other animals or run over by cars.
- food is not necessary that evening, just give water then feed and water as normal the following day
- any problems - stitches break or any bleeding they must make contact asap

The new format of collection to avoid any mix ups when returning animals, is to form a **Collection WhatsApp group** for the day.

Upon collecting animals take a pic and note address and name of pet and share on the group.

The WhatsApp Outreach Group for organising personnel for Steri Days. In an effort become more efficient, we would like to ask people to reply with their availability, and what time they have available. This allow us to formulate the working teams for that day, and avoids either too many or too few on the day.

Please contact us if you are or someone you know is interested in any of the following:

assisting at the Steri Days

helping out on Farm Visits

assisting with Educational Workshops at schools

offering and assisting with Fundraising Ideas

Thanks for your help and involvement.

We couldn't do this work without you!

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