

The host organization is the local organization that invites the M*A*S*H unit to visit.

The visiting M*A*S*H team includes the veterinarian and technicians. Volunteers may join them.

The host may be a humane society, a tribal health organization, a civic organization, an animal control agency or even a health department. At least three, preferably four or five, local volunteers are needed to assist each veterinarian/ technician team that is on site. The volunteer tasks are broken down in accompanying documents.

Medical equipment will be brought by the visiting team, check in tables and more are provided locally.

Equipment including cages, blankets and more may be brought by either one depending on if the host is a humane organization that already owns cages or is a different type of agency.

Oxygen will be supplied in large tanks or by oxygen concentrators (which require electricity). Oxygen, cages, carriers and forms may come with the visiting team or be provided by a local organization.

Communicate to determine who will provide these.

Equipment Brought by the Visiting Team:

Most teams who provide M*A*S*H services will be familiar with the supplies, but if you are starting a M*A*S*H service **portable, safe, easily cleaned equipment and supplies are vital**. A few pieces of equipment are pictured here.

The **weight and size of the equipment is critical** as it will be loaded and unloaded again and again.

- **Folding wire cages** for dogs and small clamshell-style cat carriers.
- **Table top anesthesia machines** (two are needed for the first veterinarian and an additional one is needed for each additional veterinarian). You may have one for the prep table if multiple veterinarians are operating.
- **Surgical tables**-must be light weight and safe. Stainless steel tops on heavy duty overbed hospital tables provide good, safe equipment that is easy to care for and handle. (see right)
- **V-trays** sit on top of the surgery table.
- **Prep table or sink** for surgical clipping and vacuuming. This will be several feet away from the surgery tables and preferably behind a barrier.
- **Two folding 6' to 8' tables** for supplies in the prep area. Another folding table will go at the head of the surgery tables. This table will have the anesthesia machines, gloves and other supplies on top.
- **An oxygen source**. A local hospital or clinic may supply oxygen tanks (you need "H" tanks). These are large, heavy tanks so if they will not be available locally, you will purchase an oxygen concentrator. O2 concentrators require an electrical source, but are easier and safer to handle than large oxygen tanks. Small oxygen tanks will not meet your needs.
- **A medical field sterilizer or pressure canner**. **If using a canner you need a heat source that is 1800 W**. The lower wattage single burner units commonly sold in discount stores will not work for this use. The correct burner will come from a restaurant or cooking supply store.



Above- overbed hospital table converted to a surgery table



Table top anesthesia machine



Oxygen concentrator

- **Veterinary scale.**

- **Clippers.** either rechargeable or plug-in. If rechargeable have an extra set. Always have extra blades.

- **Surgical instruments.** Calculate the estimated number of surgical packs needed by totaling the number of surgeries per hour by the amount of time needed to run a sterilizer, and the ability to have a person washing instruments throughout the day. For example, if the surgeon will perform six surgeries per hour (some surgeries always take longer than others), and the sterilizer takes 40 minutes to run and cool down, at least four “packs” will be in the sterilizer while another three to five surgeries are performed. A minimum of twelve to 14 packs should be adequate as long as packs are cleaned promptly. Do not plan to have as many packs as surgeries in the day unless someone will be available to clean and sterilize instruments for at least a couple hours at the end of the day.



A veterinary scale travels with its’ feet out or upside-down, so the feet don’t hit a hard surface.

Most veterinarians will perform surgeries in an order that is based on factors including the drugs they use and more. Surgeries may be large dogs, smaller dogs and finally cats (alternating males and females), so it is not possible to simply assign an amount of time per surgery.

- **A prep table is where animals are clipped and vacuumed before surgical scrubbing. This can be made of a folding card table or a table from a restaurant supply company.** If the set up will remain in place for a while, a restaurant supply company can make a stainless prep sink that is light enough to travel and can be hooked to a water source onsite. A double sided laundry sink with a bakers cooling rack on top can serve the same purpose, however sinks have little benefit over a card table if water cannot be conveniently hooked up. Sinks will be more work to load and unload and take up more travel space.
- **Recovery area supplies** include heating blankets (to be used on low settings), lots of quilts, Mylar (stadium blankets), a stethoscope, thermometers, a hair drier, recovery area instruction sheets (laminated), nail clippers and Karo syrup or a nutritional supplement. Small bowls for providing a small amount of food to pediatric surgery patients are needed as well. While some veterinarians prefer recovery be on the floor to prevent the possibility of animals falling off a table, many volunteers cannot sit on the floor for long periods of time. Animals that are feral or aggressive will be placed in their cages on the warm recovery surface-no animal bypasses the recovery process! Recovery is a time to administer flea and tick products.



Recovery on a table top.

All storage containers for transporting supplies and disposables should be waterproof and able to be securely fastened.