

Cat Safety Tips

Cats present special challenges.

Label all carriers as they enter the clinic, and label individual cats as soon as they have been sedated. If using tape make sure the tape is sticky.

Cats can escape quickly and climb easily, and unlike dogs, they can easily be confused with one another. **The photo right shows six matching cats on a recovery table, all from different homes. Imagine the confusion if they were not labeled!**

Cat carriers should be isolated from dogs and from loud noise. Cats should be examined and sedated in a closed area (with a door that may be securely closed) and cats should be labeled when they are removed from carriers to be examined for sedation or when they are to be prepped for surgery following sedation.

NEVER REMOVE A CAT FROM A CARRIER DURING INTAKE TO LABEL HER/HIM AT THE INTAKE DESK. Cats should never be removed from a carrier in a public space.

If you will be providing M*A*S*H services where there are no rooms, bathrooms or large closets that may be used as “cat spaces,” you can make a cage out of chain link panels or other lightweight metal mesh with a top and then covered with sheets.

While some technicians prefer paper collars, others prefer to use tape on the cat’s head or back of shoulders to label each cat, and others prefer to assign a number to each cat and write the number in one ear; the **most important thing is to be sure that each cat is labeled and that the labeling is consistent.** This means keeping a list of each cat and the assigned number at the check-in table.



Ear marking is used by marking an assigned number on the cats form as soon as she enters the clinic, and writing the same number on her carrier and, once she is sedated, on the inside of one ear as well. **This ensures the correct cat gets back into the correct carrier, with the correct paperwork to go home with the correct family.** Labeling with tape means waiting until the cat is being sedated before placing tape on the cat.

