

Setting Up the M*A*S*H Clinic

A M*A*S*H clinic set-up should be conducive to convenience and safety.

The check-in area will provide space for people to fill out paperwork and will have a scale for weighing dogs, and From here, staff/volunteers will get the animals into cages and ready for surgery.

Check-in tables will direct foot traffic away from entering the surgery space and prevent people from visiting with the animals already in cages.

The prep/surgery areas should not be in the footpath to the bathrooms, exits or directly under a ceiling fan or vent.

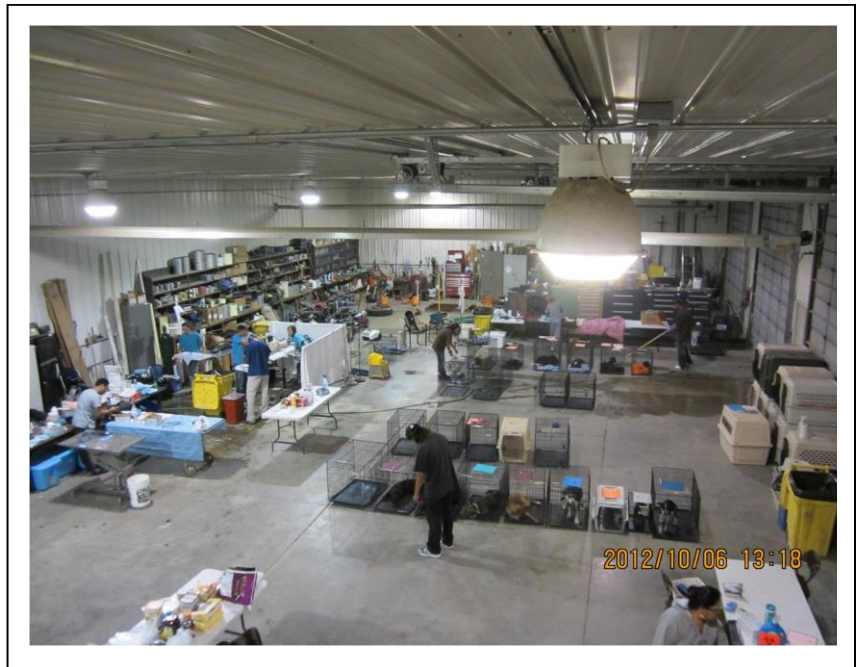
Take advantage of existing lighting for the surgery area.

Animals that are pre-sedated in their cages should be able to be brought to the surgery area with a clear footpath and little commotion.

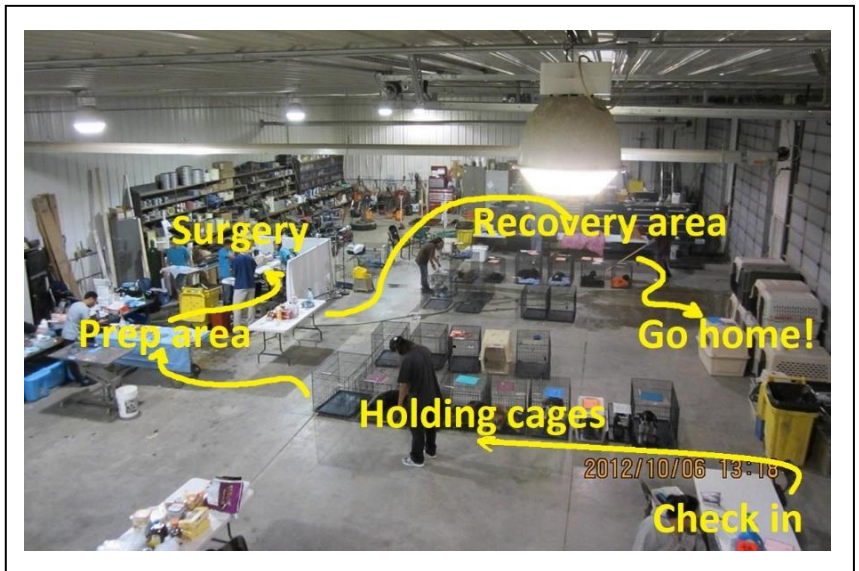
If inexperienced volunteers will be in the recovery area, it should be within earshot of the trained surgery staff (as seen right).

Electric cords and water hoses must remain out of foot traffic. Cords or hoses that cross a footpath should be taped to the floor, preferably with a bright colored tape.

Suture, gauze, surgeons' gloves and other surgery supplies can be placed on top of a folding card table along with the tabletop anesthesia machines. The table is placed at the head of the surgery table and in easy access to the surgery and prep areas. The tables are lightweight and easy to move.



M*A*S*H clinic held in a garage.



Use a sheet or drape to safeguard the surgery table from unwanted drafts and foot traffic.

This four-foot tall PVC frame is draped with a sheet to make a barrier around a surgery area. It prevents drafts from hitting the surgery table, and everyone on the surgical team can still see over the 'wall,' to see the room, answer questions and be available should an emergency arise.

2" or larger **heavy-duty** PVC pipe can be connected by being pushed together without being glued in place. PVC pipes can be used to make frames for temporary walls (seen here), or to direct traffic. It can be taken apart afterward.



A bathroom sink is a good place to set up a station for washing instruments. If there is not ample counter space, a small handcart or table is required for this workstation. An electric receptacle in or near the bathroom is a place to plug in the sterilizing unit.

Occasionally cleaning a building may not be sufficient for the area around the surgery tables. Creating barriers out of surgical drape material, plastic shower curtains, sheets, or even newsprint paper, help protect the surgery area from dirt in the environment.

Creating a safety barrier may include the ceiling. A lightweight material taped or tacked to the ceiling over the surgery tables can help keep your surgery area clean. FYI-cheap tape doesn't stick as well as the good stuff.