

## Who Brings What and Who Does What in a M\*A\*S\*H Clinic?

### Understanding the responsibilities of the host and the veterinary team...

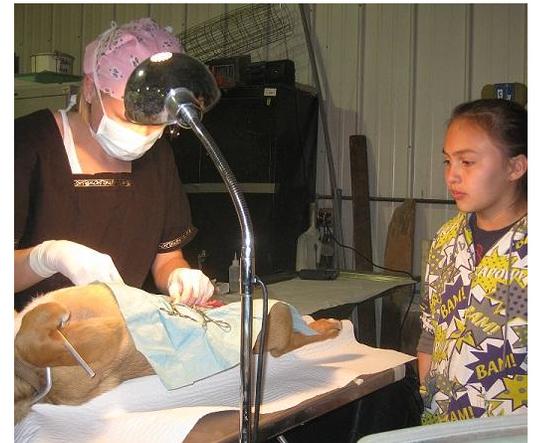
**The visiting team** (includes the veterinarian and technicians or assistants) brings the surgery equipment and supplies. This includes tables (or other surfaces which can be sterilized), anesthesia machines, scale, equipment for sterilizing surgical instruments, all disposable surgery supplies and animal handling equipment. The veterinary team may bring surgical intake forms and aftercare forms as well. The visiting team may also bring separators for the room and other supplies deemed necessary.

Even if oxygen tanks are paid for by the medical team, it is easier if the oxygen is ordered by the host and delivered to the clinic location. A prescription from the veterinarian will be needed. For information on safe traveling with oxygen tanks read here:

**The local organization** will secure the building and supply check-in tables, supplies for the check in area and labor (volunteers) for all services outside of the surgery team.

Cages, carriers and extra work tables may come with the visiting team or belong to a local organization. At least three long folding tables will be needed throughout the clinic.

**The weight of the equipment is critical in M\*A\*S\*H services as it will be loaded and unloaded repeatedly.** Folding carriers, tables, table top anesthesia machines, stainless tops on overbed hospital tables or stainless tops on industrial ironing boards provide good, safe equipment that is easy to care for and handle.



### Responsibilities of The Local Organization:

Locating and securing an appropriate building in a location that's convenient for people who will bring pets. This must be a building which can be heated, cooled and mopped. The building should have at least one space in which cat carriers can be opened in a small, enclosed space. This can be a bathroom with a closing door or even a large walk-in closet. If no such space is available, you can make one from chain link panels covered by a tarp. Unsedated cats should never be removed from carriers in an open space.

- Getting permits or permission to use the building, the parking area, and knowing who will have the key on clinic days, where to turn on water or other utilities and arranging trash disposal are the responsibility of the local team.
- Creating and distributing outreach posters, flyers and getting the clinic announced on the radio, etc. are responsibility of the local host. Sending handouts home with school kids is helpful.
- Scheduling the appointments for services (unless the clinic is a walk-in service).
- Holding a volunteer orientation for people who will be helping to run the clinic, even if they are helping with tasks at the intake desk only. **A volunteer orientation is vital before any clinic which relies on volunteers, whether it is M\*A\*S\*H, mobile or even a spay neuter program within a private practice.** An orientation is the only way to ensure that people are aware of how to monitor the animals, how the clinic is expected to 'flow,' and how to make sure that paperwork is done properly and more.
- Intake and recovery are normally the responsibility of a local organization, and generally people from that organization also volunteer on clinic days. Volunteer positions include:
  - Check-in and check out services.
  - Moving the animals from the holding area to the surgery area and from there into recovery and back to the holding cages. If you have scheduled appointments, having large dogs early in the morning allows you to schedule extra volunteers for moving the larger dogs and they can stay only for a few hours.
  - Monitoring all animals during recovery. Biters will be placed back into a cage but the cage will be in the recovery area and the pet still monitored.
  - Volunteers may help with cleaning instruments, cutting surgery drapes and other tasks as well.
  - The instructions for volunteers, fasting, recovery

and even aftercare may change from one veterinarian to the next; ask ahead of time when working with new staff.