

C.E.R. PROGRAM (Capture, Sterilization and Return)
WITH THE VETS OF THE ASSOCIATION



Thank you for supporting the CER program.

It's important that you follow the protocols.

CAPTURE PROTOCOL

- Feral cats must go **24 hours without eating** before capture time. Make sure there are no leftover food anywhere after breakfast the day before. If they are not hungry, they will not enter the cage; they must also be fasting because they must be anesthetized for the surgery.
 - Make sure no other neighbor feeds them 24 hours before capture.
 - We try to keep them caged for as little time as possible, as the cats are very much stressed.
 - If possible, capture is made on the same day the surgery is scheduled with an appointment with the veterinarian, early in the morning; in exceptional cases, the evening-night before.
 - Depending on the number of cats to be captured, and the time agreed in the vert, you should start at 7 a.m. or even earlier. We will inform you of which veterinarian you should go to and what time you should leave the captured cat there.
 - In any case, **it is important to capture at your usual feeding time and in the same place where you always feed them.**
 - When capturing, act normally. The cat can tell if you're nervous or if something's unusual...
 - Double-check that all capture systems are properly positioned in each cage.
 - In cages with slatted floors, we place cardboard so the cats don't injure themselves when stepping on them. However, **when setting the trap, make sure the cardboard doesn't interfere with or block the closing mechanism.**
 - Once the cages activated with the capture system have been set up, they **CANNOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED.** The catcher must be alert and, as soon as an animal is trapped, they must:
1. **IMMEDIATELY COVER THE CAGE WITH A SHEET OR BLANKET** (of appropriate size), **LEAVING NOTHING EXPOSED.** The association provides cloth covers for some cages. If sheets are used, for added security, it is advisable to secure the sheet with a rope tied around it.

2. IMMEDIATELY REMOVE THE CAGE AND TAKE IT TO A QUIET PLACE AWAY FROM THE CAPTURE AREA (it can be left inside the vehicle in which it will be transported to the VET). Other cats should not be aware of the caged cat's complaints.

• **AFTER CAPTURE, NEVER REMOVE THE COVER OR SHEET FROM THE CAGE. IT WILL BE DELIVERED AS IS, COVERED, TO THE CLINIC.**

PRELIMINARY STRATEGY: PLACING OPEN CAGES

One strategy we use, especially with more suspicious cats, is to place several of the cages open a few days before the capture day, that is, without the capture system active, so the cats become familiar with them and lose their fear of entering.

On those days, **Food is only allowed inside the cage and nowhere else. If he wants to eat, he has to go inside.** So they can go in and out, several days, without being captured, they lose their fear and enter confidently on the day of the capture.

➡ The collaborator collects the cages 4 or 5 days before the capture day, at the address whose location we will share with you via WhatsApp.

IMPORTANT: On the days before the capture day, **check that all cages are left open without the capture system active.**

DROPPING CATS OFF AND PICKING UP AT THE VET

Upon Dropping Cats Off: **Don't forget to leave your phone number and name at the clinic so they can contact you for pick-up or in case of any eventuality.**

Remind them at the clinic that they need to perform 3 procedures:

1. NEUTERING, 2. COMPLETE DEWORMING, AND 3. EAR MARKING.

The person who delivers the cat leaves their mobile number at the vet so they can notify them when they can pick it up. (Usually it will always be the same day).

This is what we must bring to the vet on the day of capture:

- The cages with the captured cats, covered with a cover or sheet.
- A carrier for each female cat, appropriate for its size, with a blanket or towel inside to keep the anesthetized cat warm, and a long piece of cloth or sheet tied outside to secure the door.
- For the Vidavet clinic, you must bring the complete deworming pipettes to administer to the sedated animals.

After surgery, the clinic will place each female cat in a carrier. Males can be left in the capture cage itself. Remember to also collect the capture cages, including their covers.

➡ The female will spend two or three days (depending on her tolerance to confinement) in a convalescence cage, as explained below.

RELEASE PROTOCOL

- The male is released a few hours after surgery. **Make sure he is fully awake.**
- After 2-3 days of convalescence, if everything has gone well, the female can be released.
- They are released into their colony, inside the farm (not at the gate), or, if they live on the street, we look for a protected area, as safe as possible and away from the road.
- It is important that the area be quiet at the time of release (no barking dogs, loud noises, strangers, children playing, etc.)

COLLECTION AND RETURN OF ASSOCIATION MATERIALS

For feral cats, you will be given trap-cages; for semi-domestic cats, we can leave carriers. These must have a mat or towel inside. The cost of each cage is €80, and we ask that you take good care of them, do not leave them outdoors longer than necessary, and **NEVER LEAVE THEM UNGUARDED ON THE STREET.**

We ask that you come and pick up the cages and carriers at the location we will provide via WhatsApp (Pl. Puigpedrós 3 Mas Mestre), on a date and time we will agree upon. You will return them to this same address at the end of the process.

Cages must be cleaned (usually a hose-down and allowed to dry) and carriers (with a cloth and household disinfectant) after each use. We ask that all equipment be returned to us clean, also the blankets or towels.

CONVALESCENCE OF FEMALES

To prevent overactive behavior and the wound from opening, and to ensure it begins to heal properly, females should remain for 2 or 3 days in a convalescence cage (approximately 80 cm deep x 60 cm wide x 70 cm high), where they have a bed, litter box, and food bowls. This cage can be set up at the colony's home or in a temporary shelter run by the association, as agreed upon.

Each female, in the same carrier in which she was picked up from the vet, will be placed in the convalescence cage without removing her from the carrier. This cage:

- Will be placed on a stable table in a quiet area of the house or garden.
- Will be mostly covered with a sheet (summer) or blanket (winter), leaving part of it uncovered, if possible next to a window, from which the cat can observe the outside world.

If to leave the cat in a foster home run by the association is decided, you will be given the address to take the cat after picking it up from the vet and the phone number of the volunteer who will be caring for the cat during those days, so you can stay in touch.

Female cats are usually calm, but some do not tolerate confinement well. If the animal is seen to be suffering, is very agitated, aggressive, or refuses to eat, we may decide to release it sooner.



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