

## Visiting Vet Protocol Document



*August, 2008*



# PHUKET ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

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## 1 CONTENTS

<b>1 CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 GENERAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 GENERAL EXPENSES .....	3
2.2 LIVING IN PHUKET.....	3
2.3 THINGS TO DO.....	4
2.4 LOCAL CUSTOMS AND CULTURE.....	4
2.5 VACCINATIONS.....	5
2.6 WHAT TO BRING .....	5
<b>3 CLINIC OPERATIONS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 STAFFING.....	6
3.2 STATIC CLINIC IN-PATIENT NOTES.....	7
3.3 FIELD CLINIC SETUP.....	8
<b>4 PREPARATION OF PATIENT AND SURGEON.....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 SHAVING GUIDELINES.....	9
4.2 CLIPPER OPERATING GUIDELINES.....	9
4.3 PREPARATION GUIDELINES.....	9
<b>5 OPERATING GUIDELINES.....</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1 SURGERY.....	11
5.2 SUTURING MUSCLE LAYERS.....	12
5.3 SUTURING SUBCUTANEOUS LAYER AND SKIN.....	12
5.4 POST-OP WOUND INFECTIONS.....	13
5.5 INJECTIONS.....	13
5.6 ANTIBIOTICS .....	13
5.7 DARTED DOGS.....	13
<b>6 DRUG PROTOCOLS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
6.1 ANAESTHESIA .....	15
<b>7 AFTER CARE.....</b>	<b>16</b>
7.1 IVERMECTIN.....	16
7.2 FLEA CONTROL.....	16
7.3 TATTOOING .....	17
7.4 VACCINES.....	17
7.5 NAIL CLIPPING.....	17
7.6 MANGE WASH / SPRAY (DOGS ONLY).....	18
7.7 WOUNDS.....	18
7.8 GROOMING.....	18
7.9 CARRYING ANAESTHETISED ANIMALS.....	18
7.10 RECOVERY.....	19
7.11 RECOVERY CAGES.....	19
7.12 RELEASING OWNED ANIMALS.....	19
7.13 RELEASING STRAY ANIMALS.....	20
7.14 CLEARING DOWN.....	20





<b>8 DISEASES AND INFECTIONS.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>9 VINCRISTINE AND TVT.....</b>	<b>23</b>
9.1 EQUIPMENT REQUIRED.....	23
9.2 PROCEDURE.....	23
9.3 DOSAGE.....	23
<b>10 AGEING CATS AND DOGS.....</b>	<b>24</b>
10.1 DOGS.....	24
10.2 CATS.....	24
<b>11 FIELD CLINIC CHECKLIST.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>12 NON VETERINARY ASSISTANT NOTES.....</b>	<b>27</b>
12.1 MALE OR FEMALE?!	27
12.2 HANDLING ANIMALS.....	27
12.3 INJECTIONS.....	27
<b>13 DONATIONS.....</b>	<b>29</b>
13.1 SUTURE MATERIAL.....	29
13.2 DRUGS.....	29
13.3 OTHER MATERIALS.....	29



## 2 GENERAL INFORMATION

Firstly, let us say welcome to Phuket and welcome to **PAWS**. We really hope you enjoy your time here working with the animals and also getting to know a bit more about Phuket!



This document should hopefully answer your immediate questions relating to your trip, from sorting accommodation through to how we organise our field clinics.

Should you have any further questions or queries you can of course contact us at any time.

### 2.1 GENERAL EXPENSES

All travel expenses to and from Phuket and all accommodation expenses are to be covered by visiting vets. We will provide local transportation to and from our static clinic and various field clinics and we might even provide lunch!

Prior to arrival, we are more than happy to help in arranging accommodation for visitors – Phuket has a huge array of hospitality outlets ranging from backpacking hostels to 6\* luxury hotels.

However, if you can provide us with a budget and your preferred type of accommodation, we can certainly narrow the choices down for you. We will also ensure you are in a safe area both close to work and near various attractions which may be of interest to you during your stay.

**Additionally, all visiting vets are requested to donate GBP 100 per week of placement here at PAWS to cover the costs associated with the placement.**

**It is envisaged that these funds should be raised through sponsorship, rather than being paid out of your own pocket. If you'd like some fundraising ideas, please drop us an email - we'd be happy to help!**

### 2.2 LIVING IN PHUKET

The general cost of living in Phuket is quite low, especially when it comes to food and beverages. There is great variety in the Thai menu and there is always a good selection of fresh fruits – all of which are remarkably inexpensive, especially if you are willing to “go local”.



Once you venture into the more touristy areas of the island, you will find prices start to rise, and quality starts to fall!

Visitors to Phuket don't need to pack much for the casual life style and tropical climate – it is either hot and dry or hot and wet, depending on the time of year. The High (Dry) season runs from **November** through to **April**, during which time the seas are calm and there is very little rain.

This all changes from **May** to **October** where we frequently have torrential down pours for a few hours, but then the sun re-appears to dry us off. Usually mornings and most evenings are mild and dry – but not cold!







For those coming out between end of March to early May - this is the HOTTEST time of the year.

### 2.3 THINGS TO DO

There is a fair amount to do and see here in Phuket, as well as working with us, and it's worth taking some time to see the Island of Phuket and its various attractions. If you're on the web, check out [www.phuket.com](http://www.phuket.com) which is fairly comprehensive and has various links to accommodation, activities, scuba diving and lots of other information about Phuket.

### 2.4 LOCAL CUSTOMS AND CULTURE




Thailand is largely a Buddhist country and there are a number of rules and regulations which must be adhered to. We will obviously keep you on track whilst you are out here, but here are a few pointers for you:

-  You must remove your shoes when entering any of the temple buildings, although it's ok to wear shoes in the temple grounds.
-  It's very important not to touch anyone on the head, as it's considered very rude.
-  Women must **NOT** touch the Buddhist monks or hand anything directly to them. If you need to give something to a monk, then, put it where he can pick it up or wrap it in saffron cloth and pass it to him.
-  Do not enter monks living quarters unless invited by them.
-  If in any doubts about anything ask a regular member of staff or volunteer.
-  Dress code - nothing skimpy, shorts and t-shirt are fine, also comfy shoes.



## 2.5 VACCINATIONS

Most local veterinarians in Phuket claim not to have seen a confirmed case of Rabies since the early 1980's. However, it is strongly recommended that all volunteers are vaccinated for the following, prior to arrival:

-  Rabies
-  Tetanus
-  Hepatitis B

As for other health concerns, volunteers need to check with their own local doctor for further details.

## 2.6 WHAT TO BRING

Your length of stay will dictate how much you want to bring, but remember, clothing is very cheap here and you can buy all manner of shorts, t-shirts and ideal clothing for hardly anything.

You're coming to a tropical island so pack accordingly, although it's always worth throwing in a warm top, such as a light fleece, just in case it becomes chilly of an evening.

You can buy mosquito repellents and the like here, plus in Phuket there are excellent pharmacies (including Boots!), as well as Tesco and other brand shopping centres. Other than Heinz baked beans, there isn't much you can't get here!

Lunch and soft drinks will be provided by PAWS, but please let us know if you have any special food requirements, (we may not be able to cater to everybody but we will try!).

Lastly, if you have one, bring a camera - there is always something worth snapping at, especially on field clinics!



### 3 CLINIC OPERATIONS

PAWS operations revolve around a static clinic and mobile field clinics. Most of the time, we are engaged in field operations whilst the static clinic is used as a base for animals in need of longer term treatment.

Our field clinics are planned in advance after consultation with local officials and well advertised which makes things that much more effective when we actually get there. The field clinics can be set up in and around various temples, on the beaches or outlying islands.

We have a fully equipped mobile clinic, complete with air-conditioner, generator and running water. However, when we are conducting off island clinic's we simply transport the equipment via boat to where it's needed and setup and at a pre-arranged base. We are supplied with running water and electricity, but everything else is brought along by **PAWS**.



Inside the Mobile Clinic



The Mobile Clinic



Inside the Mobile Clinic

Many of the locations we work in are quite poor and the general sanitary conditions are minimal. However, we pride ourselves on providing quality care to the animals and are field clinics are constructed and organised to provide this.

#### 3.1 STAFFING

The field clinics operate with between 2 and 4 vet's, 2 technicians and animal catchers. Usually, local villagers will bring animals to us and help us to catch others and we also have a host of volunteers who may help us here as well.

Occasionally, animals cannot be approached as they either run away or are aggressive. In such circumstances, we will blow dart the animal. This is conducted by **PAWS** staff who are trained in blow darting techniques.

The technicians, assist vets by preparing animals for surgery and performing after care. They also administer vaccinations, provide treatment for, fleas, ticks, worms and mange. In the event of venereal disease, serious mange conditions or other major injuries, animals are transported to a local clinic for treatment. Vets will often have a volunteer vet nurse with them.

Our longer term objective is to sterilise as many of the animals as possible – however, this is not a race and our primary objective is to provide quality care for the



animals with a focus on animal welfare. The animals are generally released back to their own environment a day after surgery so it is imperative that safe and secure procedures are adhered to.

Our mobile clinic is fitted with a gas anaesthesia machine, although we also use injectable drugs.

### **3.2 STATIC CLINIC IN-PATIENT NOTES**

The static clinic is open for business from 9am to 6pm Mon through Friday and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. At least one veterinary staff is on-site at all times. The hours of operation are designed to ensure that all domestic and stray animals are properly and humanely cared for and that the public has adequate and ample opportunity to reach us.

PAWS will observe most local holidays and will not be open to the public.

We also aim to respond to animal emergencies, either those that are brought to us, or to go and retrieve animals.

Community members and PAWS volunteers will often bring stray and unwanted pets to the PAWS. Whilst we don't want to turn animals away, our principle rule to Treat, Sterilise and Return the animal to their original location. PAWS does not have sufficient space or facilities to operate an animal shelter.

Animals that are delivered with young litters are usually kept on-site until the young are able to be separated from the mother - either for adoption or replacement.

Office staff will complete an intake slip for each animal. This form asks for specific information such as breed, age, sex, and color and assigns a number to the animal that stays with the animal until the animal leaves.

An animal care technician will examine and weigh each domestic animal and administer inoculations according to its species, this information is then recorded on the intake slip. All dogs are fitted with a rabies vaccination collar.

#### ***Owned Animals***

As of January 2008 - PAWS will be charging for all in-patient services for owned animals. Details of both the animals and the owners are recorded for future reference as is the treatments.

#### ***Adoption.***

PAWS aims to find new homes for as many animals as possible. All prospective owners must be residents here in Phuket and basic details are recorded at the time of adoption. PAWS also operates a Membership scheme which helps to ensure the animal is returned regularly for check-ups.





### **Euthanasia**

When deemed necessary for medical or behavioral reasons, some animals may be euthanized. Unweaned, critically ill, or seriously injured animals may be euthanized prior to conclusion of the holding period to prevent any additional suffering only with the recommendation of a veterinarian.

As Thailand is a Buddhist nation, the concept of euthanasia, for any reason, is considered taboo. However, PAWS vets will euthanase animals after assessment on a case by case basis.

### **3.3 FIELD CLINIC SETUP**

We are generally on-site and setup by 10am on any given day. Field clinics are usually conducted on Tuesday to Thursday but this is variable.

- 🐾 Surgical Kits
- 🐾 Each surgical kit is to be kept together, not mixed and should consist of:
  - 🐾 1 Rat Tooth Forcep
  - 🐾 1 Tissue Forcep
  - 🐾 1-2 Allis Forceps
  - 🐾 1-2 Scissors, ideally Plain and Metzenbaum
  - 🐾 1 Spay hook
  - 🐾 1 Needle Holder or Gillies
  - 🐾 4-6 Clamps of Various Sizes

Instruments and spay drapes are autoclaved.



## 4 PREPARATION OF PATIENT AND SURGEON

This is carried out after the animal is sedated and before the administration of either gas anaesthesia or injectable drugs such as Zoltil.

It should be about 10 minutes after the administration of the pre-med, or Xylazine/Atropine cocktail. Please make a note of the time it was administered – but bear in mind the time is variable and depends on the animal.

Prior to surgery all fur is removed from the surgical site, with clippers or a razor blade. With clippers, shave first in the direction of fur growth. This ensures the blades do not blunt quickly. Then clip short against the direction of fur growth.

### 4.1 SHAVING GUIDELINES

Males and Females are prepared for surgery as follows:

#### **Female Dog**

The incision is midline just below the umbilical scar. Shave an area of 10-15 cm wide, from 5cm above the umbilicus to 10 - 15cm below it. If the dog is long haired you can trim any hair that falls into the square.

#### **Male Dog**

The incision is made just above the testicles and behind the penis. Shave the scrotum up to the base of the penis – roughly a 10cm area.

#### **Female Cat**

The incision used is a midline. Shave an area not above the umbilicus, but below the last pair of nipples.

#### **Male Cat**

The incision is made into the scrotal sacs so just clip the fur over the tip of each testicle. Be very careful you do not damage the tip of the penis especially if it is sticking out from its sheath.

In all cases, shaved hair should be placed in the bin.

### 4.2 CLIPPER OPERATING GUIDELINES

Please be aware of the following when using the clippers. Clippers cost approximately **GBP £120** (US\$200 or THB 8,000) and Clipper blades cost **GBP £20** (US\$45 or THB 1,400) - so *please take care with them!*

- Blades MUST be clipped on whilst motor is running.
- Clean blades regularly.
- Lubricate with spray, to clean and cool.
- Do not leave blades to dry without spraying or they will go rusty.

### 4.3 PREPARATION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are for preparing an animal for surgery.



### **Shaving**

- Use a small bowl of dilute chlorohexadine and wet blade.
- The blade is gripped in forceps to ensure no slippage.
- Using short strokes and light pressure run the blade against the skin at a 45 degree angle.
- Do not over shave as you will cause a rash and irritation.
- If you are not confident use a disposable plastic razor, after clipping fur short with scissors.
- The area to be shaved is described is dependant on the animal – see section 3.1

### **Scrubbing**

- Spray generously with dilute Chlorhexidine and wipe with gauze swabs.
- Work from the middle outwards and never wipe from the edge towards the middle, as this will drag dirt from the outer, unclean area, into the incision site.
- Ensure the area is cleaned and there are no stray hairs. You can scrub quite hard, to get rid of all the dirt.
- Never swab the surgical site with USED swabs.
- Do this until the cotton wool/ shaved area are totally clean (this is very important).

### **Alcohol**

Alcohol Spirit is then sprayed on the incision area.

### **Iodine**

The animal is then placed on the operating table and sprayed with Iodine.

### **Eyes**

All animals have their eyes treated with teramycin/chloramphenicol whilst under sedation to prevent the eyes from drying.



## **5 OPERATING GUIDELINES**

All vets must be extremely diligent when scrubbing up, this is very important for the welfare of the animal and it should take approx 5 to 10 minutes, to do it properly.

Please feel free to ask any of our vets if you have any questions or queries relating to operating procedures.

### **5.1 SURGERY**

All animals should be checked by a vet or vet nurse, for general health and any underlying heart conditions, before any drugs are administered.

- 1.** All female dogs, are to have ventral abdomen midline incisions/
- 2.** Keep the incision size as small as possible, (as long as you can operate to the best of your ability, this is in case of suture breakdown, thus minimal damage to the abdominal contents)
- 3.** We recommend the use of a spay hook.
- 4.** We do spay pregnant animals, although discretion is advised as we are operating in largely Buddhist community. Additionally, we may have on-lookers who own the animal, so caution is advisable.
- 5.** For pregnant animals and those on heat, extra care must be taken to avoid bleeding, also the double ligating of ovarian stumps and transfixing of cervical stumps, is required.
- 6.** Take time to ensure NO bleeding before closure of the abdominal wall.
- 7.** High risk patients, will spend between a minimum of 48 hours to 1 week in the static clinic, i.e. pregnant spays, females in season etc. It is the senior vet's decision, given the individual animal's circumstances.
- 8.** Normal spays/neuters can be released after 24 hours to their original territories, after being checked by the vet in charge.
- 9.** Female cats to have surgical incisions on midline.
- 10.** Male dog's incision is made cranial to the testes.



## 5.2 SUTURING MUSCLE LAYERS

The animals captured and sterilised by **PAWS** are re-released into their territory, after one night confinement. Extra care must be taken when closing surgical wounds, especially with respect to the muscle layer and skin.

Bear in mind these animals are almost immediately released into their environment where they have to fight for food, or compete for their position in the pack hierarchy. They are therefore likely to suffer more anxiety and stress than an owned animal.

- As a precaution against wound breakdown, the sutures in the muscle layer must be **single interrupted**. No continuous patterns.
- Please take a larger bite of the muscle and ligament, and place the sutures closer together (about 5mm apart)
- In dogs, use CATGUT USP 0 in the muscle layer, and make sure that stitches are quite close to each other – approximately 0.5cm)
- In cats, use CATGUT USP 2/0 in the muscle layer and again, ensure that stitches are quite close to each other.
- Vets need to be aware that all these suture materials have high memory and require many (at least 4) throws when suturing.

## 5.3 SUTURING SUBCUTANEOUS LAYER AND SKIN

A continuous pattern is fine for the subcutaneous or intra-dermal layer.

1. Only synthetic absorbable suture material is to be used.
2. We use **CATGUT USP** for subcutaneous layer
3. We use **SERAFIT** ® for intradermal layer.
4. Finally the skin should be closed with another continuous intra-dermal pattern, such that the wound edges do not gape, and no external skin sutures should be required.
5. Knots should not poke through from underlying layers, and the final knot should be buried and tunnelled under the skin.
6. Ensure all subcutaneous suture ends are buried well.
7. Male cat incisions are left to heal on their own.



#### 5.4 POST-OP WOUND INFECTIONS

These are almost non-existent providing that the pre-op patient preparation is thorough, the surgery is sterile (vets must be scrupulous in scrubbing up) and the surgical time is kept to a minimum.

Additional antibiotics are typically not required, as we give each animal a long acting antibiotic and pain killer after surgery. Tramodal for dogs and Tofidine for cats

#### 5.5 INJECTIONS

Needles and syringes for subcutaneous (S.C.) injections can be used repeatedly until blunt. If inadvertent perivascular injection is made, flush with saline injection at site.

Any injection given I.M. – because of the high density of muscle tissue, large amounts of fluid may be very painful. The maximum amount injected in one spot, should be 2ml in cats and 5ml in dogs. If the dose required is larger then use 2 syringes and 2 different sites for injection.

#### 5.6 ANTIBIOTICS

Doses used:

- Penicillin LA – 1ml per 10kgs IM or SQ
- Again we use the same needle and syringe throughout the day.
- Check the preparation and verify with the volunteers that the particular brand of penicillin used on the day can be given IM, SQ or both, also doses vary brand to brand (check with the senior vet on-site for details)
- Whatever type of general anaesthetic is used, the antibiotic should be given, once the general anaesthetic has been administered.

#### 5.7 DARTED DOGS

Dogs are darted by trained PAWS staff, using a pressurised syringe. The drug mix used is as follow:

- Atropine 0.04 mg/kg + Xylazine 1mg/kg + Zoltil 5mg/kg
- This is all mixed in one syringe.

In all cases, when a dog has been blow darted, one should follow these guidelines:

1. Find out what time the dog was darted, ask the catcher to be as exact as they can.
2. These dogs need to be given priority, as the Zoletil wears off after about 30 minutes.
3. Give the dog an injection of Tramadol, to start pain relief.
4. A vet should always administer anaesthetics to darted dogs.



## 6 DRUG PROTOCOLS

**Xylazine** is given as a premed as part of this protocol. It causes the animal to vomit, which is important, as we never know when the animal will have last eaten.

The dose of Xylazine required varies, depending on several factors, including:

- Age
- Temperament
- Weight

Generally **increase** the dose if,

- The animal is young
- The animal is anxious
- The animal is under 10 kg

**Decrease** the dose if,

- The animal is large (above 20 kg)
- The animal is old
- Basically the dose of Xylazine is a little subjective, something you get a “feel for”, but always be conservative.

***Please make a note of the time it is administered.***

The **Atropine/Xylazine** is given I.M. and, the same needle and syringe are used for administering this sedative.

### ***Pre Med Doses***

If animals have **not been darted**, pre med with:

Atropine      **1 mg/ml** (0.04 mg/kg = 0.4ml per 10 kg)  
Xylazine      **20mg/ml** (0.5 - 1ml per 10 kg)  
Tramadol      **0.4 ml** per 10 kg.

If the animals **have been darted**, pre med with:

Tramadol      - **0.4 ml** per 10 kg



## 6.1 ANAESTHESIA

We usually use injectable anaesthesia (Zoltil) or gas anaesthesia (isoflurane) for dogs. With cats, we **only** use injectable anaesthesia.

### *Injectable Anaesthesia (intramuscular)*

☒ Zoltil 100 mg/ml (0.5mg/kg) = 0.5 ml per 10 kg

However, if the dog has not undergone pre-med with Xylazine, then use the following:

☒ Zoltil 100mg/ml (1 mg/kg) = 1ml per 10 kg

For cats, the following injectable anaesthesia is used:

☒ Zoltil 100mg/ml (1 mg/kg) = 1ml per 10 kg

### *Gas Anaesthesia*

The mainstay for general anaesthesia is gas anaesthesia because it is very safe and highly controllable. We use the safest and most effective gas anaesthesia available called **Isoflurane**.

Isoflurane provides a high degree of safety with very low toxicity. It doesn't alter the patient's heart rate or blood pressure, and the animal wakes up rapidly after surgery. The gas is an ideal anaesthetic for older pets or surgery patients that have other medical problems such as heart, liver or kidney disease.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Administer intravenous Thiopental sodium 50mg/ml (10mg/kg) = 2ml/10kg, diluted with normal saline (1:1)
2. The anaesthetised animal is intubated with an endotracheal tube lubricated with 2% lidocaine jelly before insertion
3. Turn on AP alert
4. Turn on oxygen tank and adjust the volume of oxygen at flow meter of anaesthetic machine

**Oxygen Volume** = Body Weight x Tidal Volume x Respiratory Weight  
= BW x 10 x 12

5. Turn on the scavenger of the anaesthetic machine
6. Endotracheal tube is connected with pipe from the anaesthetic machine
7. Give anaesthetic gas (Isoflurane)

**Induction** 2.5 to 4%

**Maintenance** 1 to 3%





## 7 AFTER CARE

Part of PAWS policy is to provide a high level of after care for the animals. Not only are we sterilising them, but also treating any diseases or infections they may have.

### 7.1 IVERMECTIN

- Ivermectin 1% : Each ml contains IVERMECTIN 10mg
- This is given to each animal, by injection S.Q.
- Dose rate, if the animal has mange or skin problems give a dose rate of **300-1000 mcg** for dogs (Sarcoptosis and ear mite = 400 mcg/kg SQ, Demodicosis = 600-1000 mcg/kg SQ every week for 4-5 weeks or 300-600mcg/kg PO for 6 weeks). For cats dose to be used is 400 mcg/kg SQ every week for 2-4 weeks .
- Double check the brand being used, for confirmation of dose.
- If no mange, or skin problems, give a dose of **0.2 ml**, to kill any worms, or Ticks.
  
- If heart worm is suspected, do not administer, as it could kill the dog.
- Instead give Heart Guard. As most of the animals we treat are strays the following protocol is almost impossible, however if owner animal/temple animal, the following protocol should be followed.
- If recent onset i.e. 4 months or less, give 1 Heart Guard, tablet/chew per body weight once a fortnight for 1 month, then 1 tablet once a month for 1 year. However, ideally should be given monthly for life.
- Advanced heartworm – the same principals must be applied, but over an 18 month period, however, ideally should be for life.
- The manufacturers of Heart Guard say that this protocol is effective in 95-97% of cases. Immiticide is the active ingredient for this treatment, in tablet/chew form, you can't overdose, unlike the injectable form, which needs inpatient treatment & constant monitoring.
- The tablets/chews, have a weight range on them, i.e. up to 11kg, 11-22kg, & 23-45kg.

### 7.2 FLEA CONTROL

- A spot-on product, such as, frontline, revolution or stronghold, is what we use.
- These products are applied to the skin, at the back of the neck, do this by parting the fur, and apply the contents of the tube. Please wear gloves when applying any of these products.
- Most importantly, be very careful with cats. **Never give a cat a dog product**, and if accidentally this happens, wash the area copiously with soapy water and rinse very thoroughly.
- Many flea products are toxic and fatal for cats.
- If using flea powder, a face mask must be worn.



### 7.3 TATTOOING

After surgery, all animals are tattooed.

- Tattoo left ears with the PW6 Tattoo
- Never tattoo whilst the vet is operating, as you may wake the animal up.
- Clean the inside of the ear flap with alcohol, in a central spot where there is little, or no hair.
- Put a small dot, of approximately 1cm, of tattoo ink with a cotton bud, inside the ear flap.
- Use the tattoo instrument, with the prongs on the inside of the ear, over the spot of ink, and crunch down, until the skin is broken, you may get some bleeding.
- Release the instrument, and rub more ink, with the cotton bud into the holes created.

At the end of every clinic day the Tattoo Gun **MUST** be cleaned thoroughly with a brush, especially the prongs.

### 7.4 VACCINES

All vaccine must be kept in a cool box, on ice at all times. Each dog is to receive the following Rabies inoculations.

- Vaccinations are to be given by injection, S. Q.
- They should be mixed, only immediately prior to administration, as after being made up they can not be stored for future use.
- Use permanent marker pen to mark each syringe with the type of vaccine, i.e. Parvo, so no cross contamination is possible.
- Vaccine brands may vary, as how to be made up. In general a diluent bottle is provided for vaccines that are in powder form. Ensure they are mixed well.
- Some vaccines come in liquid form, do not mix liquid vaccines with vials of powder, unless the manufactures instructions, recommends it.
- Mixing vaccines together inactivate them, and make them useless or dangerous to the animal.

### 7.5 NAIL CLIPPING

Use nail clippers to clip any overly long nails.

- Look especially for dew claws on hind legs.
- The nails should be clipped a few millimetres below the pink quick.
- If the nail is black, the claw should extend just beyond the pad.
- If you accidentally make the nail bleed, put a very small piece of cotton wool, tissue, or toilet paper, on the end of the nail, to help the blood clot.



## 7.6 MANGE WASH / SPRAY (DOGS ONLY)

You should **always use gloves** when using **Amitraz** as it is an organophosphate, and a very toxic chemical.

- If you splash it on your skin, wash it off immediately, with lots of soapy water.
- The product must be made up according to the manufactures instructions, and discarded after use.
- Do this in an area where animals can not get to it to drink, and away from plants.
- The bottle must not get hot, or be exposed to sunlight for long periods of time, as it will get stronger and more toxic.
- If anaesthetised, the animal should be placed on newspaper or towels.
- The made up solution is sponged on all over, avoiding eyes, and the animal is left to dry.
- Discard newspapers, or put the towels for washing immediately.
- If the animal is awake, make sure it does not shake it self dry near people or cats.

## 7.7 WOUNDS

Minor wounds and abrasions, can be cleaned with diluted Povidone, Iodine. The fur may be trimmed around the area, with scissors. Do not use the vets instruments, or the surgery clippers, as you will contaminate the blades.

## 7.8 GROOMING

If time permits & the animal is long haired give it a good brush.

## 7.9 CARRYING ANAESTHETISED ANIMALS

Animals must be treated carefully, regardless of whether they are under anaesthetic or not. We will demonstrate how all animals should be carried.

- Lighter animals can be carried in a sling like fashion. By “scooping” up the front and back legs.
- Alternatively, carry the body and support the neck and head over your shoulder (like carrying a baby).
- Larger animals (over 15 kg), should be carried by 2 people, and have their back and head supported.



### 7.10 RECOVERY

We do try and keep a separate, quiet recovery area for animals – however with some field clinics, this is just not possible. It's also worth keeping an eye on watching crowds to keep them away from rousing animals.

- Animals may take anywhere, from 10 minutes to 2 hours to wake up.
- They will be wobbly, and may howl, or whimper.
- Animals should have their breathing monitored regularly, (watch the chest rise and fall.
- The incision site should be checked regularly, for bleeding.
- They should be laid on their side, with the neck extended, to ensure a clear airway.
- The tongue should be pulled out of the side of the mouth.
- Never put your fingers inside the mouth.
- Animals may be turned gently to the other side, every half hour.
- When they are starting to stir, they can be moved to cages.
- If animals are disorientated, and distressed a towel or sheet may be placed over the cage, to shield noise, and light. Never cover a cage completely, as the animal will get too hot.
- If it is very hot a fan should be used to keep the animals cool.

### 7.11 RECOVERY CAGES

- Cages should be lined with newspaper.
- Cats should be kept in a separate area to dogs.
- Cats must never be placed in cat carrier baskets to recover. They are too small, and cats can asphyxiate, if they get stuck in the basket corner.
- Soiled cages are to be cleaned.
- Ensure the safety catch is used to close all cages properly.
- Once fully awake, for overnight comfort, each animal must be given water, and food.

### 7.12 RELEASING OWNED ANIMALS

- Owned animals may go home only when, they are fully awake.
- They must be checked by a vet, or vet nurse, before being allowed home.
- The owner should be given a telephone number, to contact in case of problems.
- The owner should be given full instructions (leaflet in Thai script) as, to post op care of the animal, also the general care of the animal.
- The vet/vet nurse must check:
  - The incision site.
  - The ability of the animal to stand and walk.
  - The gum colour.



### 7.13 RELEASING STRAY ANIMALS

Stray animals are kept in cages over night and then released into their own area when they are fully awake the following day. However, bear in mind the following:

If the animal is extremely distressed, at being caged, and is awake, it can be released on the day of surgery. A struggling/ distressed dog may cause more injury to itself, if left in a cage overnight.

This is only possible if the following checks are made by a vet / vet nurse and they declare the animal is safe to be released:

- The ability to walk and stand.
- Examination of the incision site.
- Gum colour.

### 7.14 CLEARING DOWN

At the end of an undoubtedly long day, we ensure that the area in which we have been working is as we found it, or even tidier!

- All rubbish is to be put in the bin and the area we have worked in swept if possible
- Return tables and chairs from where they came from
- Make sure all equipment is clean and tidy (e.g. electrical cords, lights, clippers, and sandbags)
- All materials for surgery have a place in a designated box so return items to the correct box
- If something is broken or missing please inform the clinic administrator



## **8 DISEASES AND INFECTIONS**

Zoonoses are diseases and infections humans can pick up from animals. Most of them are rare and most can be prevented with basic hygiene. Most importantly wash your hands after handling very scabby animals and ALWAYS wash your hands before eating or snacking.

### ***Ringworm***

A fungal infection causing circular itchy lesions on the skin in contact spots.

### ***Scabies***

A parasite that burrows under the skin and causes red itchy tracks usually on the hands and arms

### ***Fleas***

They may bite and cause mosquito bite like lesions.

### ***Organophosphates***

This includes Tick & Flee Sprays and Amitraz Mange Wash - They can be harmful in 2 main ways:

1. Heat causes the drug to become concentrated & you may overdose the dog, which can cause fitting, which if not treated leads to death. Therefore **DO NOT** keep in the car or in a warm place.
2. Exposure to people. The drugs are absorbed through the skin & can also cause fitting. Long term chronic exposure has been linked to leukaemia & blood cancers.

Therefore, always wear gloves and ensure that bathing dogs are rotated – no one person should always be doing this job. The bath should be very accurately measured when diluted.

### ***Toxocariasis and Tapeworm***

Ingestion of worm eggs very, very rarely can cause blindness and hydatid cysts. Always wash your hands after handling animals and before eating.

### ***Toxoplasma***

Causes cold or flu like symptoms from eggs shed in cat faeces. In pregnant women it can harm the foetus and in immuno-suppressed people can cause serious illness so for this reason if you are pregnant or immuno-compromised then do not handle cats or cats faeces.

### ***Rabies***

Is present in Thailand and rare in Phuket. We recommend all volunteers to get vaccinated.



### ***Bites and Scratches***

These can all get infected and cause painful swellings and abscesses. If you get bitten or scratched wash the area well with iodine or chlorhexidine. Make sure your protection against tetanus is up to date.

Cat scratch fever is a rare but serious illness from bacteria in cat's mouths and claws. Do always clean even minor cat scratches.

### ***Needle stick injury***

You cannot pick up any diseases from animals this way but the area may get infected so clean it well.



## 9 VINCRISTINE AND TVT

We have found numerous cases of TVT (Transmissible Veneral Tumor) and VD (Veneral Disease). This is usually done via IV injection of Vincristine in the static clinic but can also be conducted on offsite field clinics.

The treatment needs to be done once a week for 4 to 6 weeks, depending on how bad the infection is.

### 9.1 EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

2 - 3 people.

Gloves for both operators

Vincristine

Saline

Chlorhexadine

Alcohol, or spirit swabs

Clippers

### **VINCRISTINE ® IS A CHEMOTHERAPY DRUG**

**It is potentially very dangerous to your health, and must be handled with special precautions**

*It must not be handled if you are, immuno-compromised, or pregnant  
It will cause burns, if splashed onto your skin, or into your eyes*

### 9.2 PROCEDURE

1. Put on gloves.
2. Clip fore leg, for IV access.
3. Scrub the clipped area with chlorhexidine.
4. Spray the clipped area with alcohol.
5. Administer the correct dose of Vincristine.
6. Flush with saline.
7. Important, any urine/ faeces must be incinerated, as it is highly toxic.

### 9.3 DOSAGE

0.025 mg/kg, once weekly for 4 to 6 weeks.





## 10 AGEING CATS AND DOGS

The following is a Tooth Eruption Time Table:

	DECIDUOUS TEETH		PERMANENT TEETH	
	DOG	CAT	DOG	CAT
Incisors	4-6 WEEKS	3-4 WEEKS	2-5 MONTHS	3-5 MONTHS
Canines	3-5 WEEKS	3-4 WEEKS	5-6 MONTHS	5-6 MONTHS
Premolars	5-6 WEEKS	5-6 WEEKS	4-6 MONTHS	4-5 MONTHS
Molars	NOT PRESENT	NOT PRESENT	5-7 MONTHS	5-6 MONTHS

- Any animal with all adult teeth will always be over 6 months old.
- Check the canine (large pointed tooth) as this is the last to erupt.
- The adult canine tooth in cats and dogs, is big, pointy, and straight.
- The deciduous canine tooth is very sharp and slightly curved.
- For puppies, and kittens, they can be aged by the eruption chart of deciduous and adult teeth.

### 10.1 DOGS

The tables below indicate the full number of teeth present, when all erupted for one side of the mouth.

	INCISORS	CANINES	PRE MOLARS	MOLARS
DECIDUOUS				
Upper Jaw	3	1	3	0
Lower Jaw	3	1	3	0
PERMANENT				
Upper Jaw	3	1	4	2
Lower Jaw	3	1	4	3

### 10.2 CATS

	INCISORS	CANINES	PRE MOLARS	MOLARS
DECIDUOUS				
Upper Jaw	3	1	3	0
Lower Jaw	3	1	3	0
PERMANENT				
Upper Jaw	3	1	3	1
Lower Jaw	3	1	2	1

- Incisors: the small teeth at the front.
- Canines: the large pointed teeth
- Pre molars and molars: all teeth after the canines.



## 11 FIELD CLINIC CHECKLIST

The following is a brief run-down of the main items required for each field clinic.

### Anaesthetic Tables

- Daily Work Sheet / Record sheet and pen
- Atropine®
- Xylazine®
- Zoltil®
- Thiopental Sodium
- Dosage Charts

### Preparation Tables

- Clippers
- Shaving Blades and Scalpel
- Alcohol
- Betadine
- Hexachlorine
- Sponges
- Stainless Bowl
- Eye Ointment (teramycin)

### Post Operation Tables

- Tattoo Gun and Ink
- Antibiotics – Injectable Penicilli
- Pain Killer – Tolfidine® or Tramadal®
- Rabies Vaccine
- Ivomec
- Dosage Charts

### Operating Tables

- 1 x Table per Vet

### Middle Table

- Surgical Needles (Round and Cutting)
- Surgical Blades
- Suture Material (Catgut and Serafit)
- Guaze
- Spay Hooks

### Emergency Drugs

- Transmin
- Vitamin K
- Adrenaline



## Other

- Surgical Equipment (pre-packed)
- Gloves
- Drapes
- Tape
- Rope
- Stainless Trays
- Scissors
- Syringe – 1, 3 and 5ml
- Needles – G21, 22 and 23
- Hexachlorine with pump
- Nailbrushes
- Used needles and blade bottles
- Towels
- Scales
- 70% Alcohol Bottle
- NSS (Normal Saline Solution)
- Cotton
- Toilet Paper
- Garbage Bags
- Buckets – For used equipment and cloths
- Newspapers
- Fold away cages
- Empty, sealable container for soaking instruments
- Rabies Tag's and Collar
- Electrical Extension Leads
- Muzzle
- Cleaning Fluids
- Dog and Cat Food
- Food and Water Bowls
- Flash Lights
- Ambu Bag

## Documentation

- Information Banners
- Information Leaflets
- Post Operation Information



## 12 NON VETERINARY ASSISTANT NOTES

The following pages are aimed at those with no veterinary experience but who wish to help volunteer with our field clinics.

### 12.1 MALE OR FEMALE?!

A male dog can easily be identified from a distance by testicles between the legs (seen from the rear) and a penis at the midline belly area. Neutered dogs may not have an obvious scrotum but will always have a penis.

Female dogs have nothing visually underneath but have a vulva below the anus under the tail. If the vulva is swollen or bleeding they are “**on heat**” or “**in season**”. If you cannot see a penis or testicles then it is most likely a female!

Cats are a bit more tricky than dogs, but looking closely under the tail from the rear can differentiate male and females.

In the **female cat** immediately below the anus is a longitudinal slit opening to the vagina.

In the **male cat** there is a gap between the anus and the penis (circular opening). In the un-neutered male the testicles (of pea to marble size) are in the gap between the anus and the penis. In a neutered male the scrotal sac will be there but empty.

### 12.2 HANDLING ANIMALS

You will be handling dogs and cats. Some will be friendly and some will not. Best approach is to be careful and not to make any sudden movements that may frighten them.

- Do not approach animals from behind.
- Do not carry cats.
- If you catch a cat then cage it immediately and try not to stress the cat by taking it near dogs.
- If a dog or cat is growling or snarling at you it is best left alone. (See also notes on Anaesthetics)

### 12.3 INJECTIONS

Injections are made with a hypodermic needle and syringe into 3 sites.

**S.C or S.Q** - subcutaneous, under the skin.

**I.M** - intramuscular, into the muscle.

**I.V** - intravenous, into the vein.

The needles and syringes for **S.C** and **I.M** injections are used repeatedly until blunt. The needle used for an **I.V** injection is only used once and is then disposed off.



All needles, when being disposed, are to be put into the **"sharps"** bin.

- A needle is kept in the top of each drug bottle so that contamination from needles that have been used to inject animals does not occur.
- Syringes come in various sizes: 1 ml, 2 ml, 5 ml, 10 ml, 10 ml and gradations of mls are marked on the side of each syringe.
- Used syringes can be put into the rubbish.
- I.V injections are performed by vets/vet nurses, or under direct veterinary supervision only.

*(See notes on raising a vein for intravenous injections)*



## **13 DONATIONS**

PAWS is a fully registered foundation – we are therefore dependent upon generous donations from both the public and organisations alike.

Whilst financial donations are always gratefully received, we'd also be grateful if you could help us with the following materials:

### **13.1 SUTURE MATERIAL**

Catgut 0 or 2/0 USP

Serafit / Vicryl® O USP or 2/0 USP

Supramid 2/0 USP

### **13.2 DRUGS**

Antibiotics, such as injectable penicillin or others

NSAID – Tolfidine®, Rymadly®, Tramodal®

Anaesthetic Drugs – Zolital®, Isofuran®, Thiopental®

Ivomectin

NOTE– Do not bring Ketamine. IT IS ILLEGAL!

### **13.3 OTHER MATERIALS**

Surgical instruments – especially surgical blades, scissors and artery clams (large and small)

Flea products – such as Frontline®, Revolution® or Advantage®

Surgical sterile gloves (size 6½)

Suture needles

Hypodermic needles – 21g, 22g and 23g

Syringes – 1ml, 3ml or 5ml

IV Catheters – ¾ inch needles gauge 22 or 24