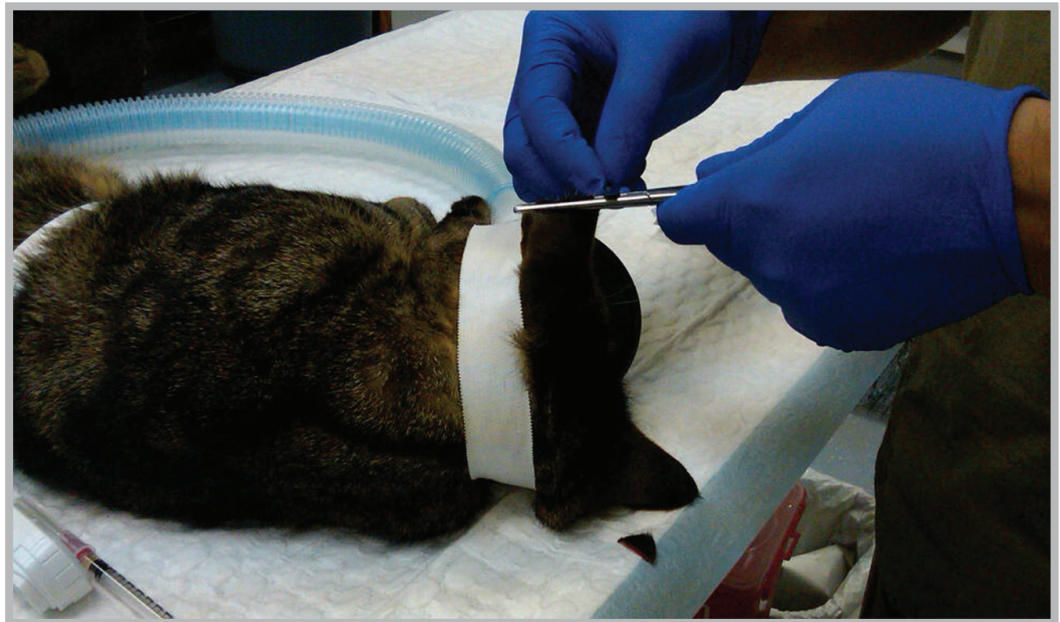


## Ear Tip

All cats who arrive at the spay/neuter clinic and will be returned to live completely or partly outdoors must be ear tipped. This will quickly identify the cat as already having been spayed or neutered if it should be trapped again. The cat can be released immediately by the trapper as soon as the ear tip is recognized. If the cat does present at the spay/neuter clinic, the risk of anesthesia can be avoided.



Ear tipping is performed under anesthesia prior to surgery. A clean straight hemostat is placed across the tip of the cat's left ear, exposing no more than 1 cm of ear tip for an adult cat and proportionally less for a kitten. A new, clean hemostat is used for each cat. Use a sterile blade to cut off the tip of the ear that is exposed above the hemostat. Use a new sterile blade for each cat. A silver nitrate stick or small amount of styptic powder is applied to the cut edge of the pinna to control bleeding. The hemostat may be left on the pinna to apply pressure through surgery and recovery and be removed just before returning the cat to the trap.