



Ear Tipping Fact Sheet

What is Ear Tipping?

Ear tipping is a humane, surgical procedure where a small portion of the cat's left ear is removed while the cat is under anesthesia. It is a safe and painless procedure for your cat.

Why Is Ear Tipping Done?

Ear tipping is a universal and visual marker that a cat has been spayed or neutered and is likely vaccinated. For volunteers who operate TNR programs, a tipped ear helps to prevent unnecessary re-trapping or surgery. While ear tipped cats may be pets, in most cases, it is an indication of an outdoor or community cat.

If you are concerned that an ear tipped cat is a lost pet, you should contain the cat and have it scanned for a microchip. Scanning for a chip is a free service that is offered by all veterinary offices / clinics, most pet stores, and your town's animal control officers.

How Much of the Ear is Removed?

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch is removed from the tip of the left ear. The ear will heal normally and will not impact the cat's hearing, behavior, or quality of life. Shortly after surgery, you may notice a yellowish substance across the ear tip. This is likely surgical glue that some veterinarians will use to aid in the healing process. The ear tip will have a noticeable scab while it heals.

