



**Alley Cat Allies**  
The cats' leading advocate

## Veterinary Resource

### Fact Sheet

[www.alleycat.org/Veterinarian](http://www.alleycat.org/Veterinarian)

# SPAY BOARD DESIGN INSTRUCTIONS

**S**pay boards are often used for spaying female cats in high-volume spay and neuter clinics. The boards make prepping, spaying, and moving cats in the fast-paced clinic setting easier and safer for both cats and people.

The female cat can be safely restrained on the board's disinfected surface, with her abdomen properly exposed for surgery. Boards can be easily cleaned and reused. Depending on how many surgeons are operating and how quickly the boards will be cleaned between uses, a clinic that treats 100 cats with approximately 50% being female should have 15 – 30 spay boards available.

Spay boards are easy to make if you have access to equipment to cut the plastic to size. If you aren't handy with power tools, talk to someone at your local hardware store or glass shop to see if they can assist you or recommend someone who can help you. These instructions should make crafting spay boards a breeze.

### Materials Needed

- Drill and 1/4" drill bit
- Table saw or band saw to cut plastic
- 3/16" (.187) Acrylic (Plexiglas) or Polycarbonate (Lexan)
- Several yards of 3/16" poly clothesline (at least 10 Ft. per board)

### Assembly Instructions

1. Cut plastic per specifications on page 2.
2. Round edges slightly for safer handling (this is optional).
3. Cut 2 1/2 - 3' of clothesline for each hole on the board.
4. Melt the ends of the clothesline or bind with tape so they don't fray.
5. For each piece, tie a double knot at one end and slip the other end of the rope through the drilled hole and tie a SLIP KNOT at the other end.

**OPTION:** In step 5, you can use a CABLE TIE to secure the loop instead of a slip knot. After making the loop and tightening the cable tie, cut off excess plastic.

### Use Instructions

1. Place anesthetized female cat on the board laying on her back.
2. Place each limb into the hole created by the slip knot past the elbow or ankle and gently tighten.
3. Pull the limb away from the body, parallel to the board.
4. After the limb is pulled to desired length, tighten the rope by pulling on the end underneath the board and wrap the end of the rope over and under the slits at the top of the board to secure the rope and hold the cat in place.
5. Limbs should be tied securely enough so that they are fully away from the body, but not overextended. The cat should be restrained so that she remains immobile during surgery.

*(Illustration on back.)*

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