



*improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.*

---

## Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Post-Surgical Instructions

Caretaker Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surgery Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping to decrease cat overpopulation. Here are some guidelines to help keep you safe and help your feral cat(s) have a safe post-operative experience.

- 🐾 After surgery, keep the cats in their traps until the next morning.
- 🐾 Cats are given a long acting anesthetic for their surgery and may be only partially recovered at discharge since full recovery may take 24 hours.
- 🐾 Prepare a sheltered area for holding the cats after surgery. Cats recovering from anesthesia are particularly prone to chilling which will prolong recovery and may be dangerous. You can place some newspaper on the floor to catch urine, stool, and food that will fall from the trap.
- 🐾 Be sure traps are loosely covered with a large sheet or towel which provides protection and security. The covering keeps the cats calm. Do not use tarps or plastic sheeting which may make it difficult to breathe.
- 🐾 Cats are susceptible to heat and cold while recovering from anesthesia.
- 🐾 **Normal behaviors** that occur during recovery include: deep sleep, head bobbing, wobbly movements, fast breathing, and shivering. **No** cat should be released the next day if it is still showing these signs.
- 🐾 **Abnormal behaviors** during recovery include: continued bleeding from the surgery area. Bleeding from the ear tipping is expected but should stop by the time of release the next day.
- 🐾 Once the cats are fully alert and able to stand without being wobbly, they may be offered food and water. Some cats may be able to eat a small meal and some water the evening following surgery. It is important not to feed them too much as they may vomit if they eat too much.
- 🐾 Execute extreme caution when putting food or water into a trap containing a feral cat. Use a very shallow dish or empty cat food can and only open the trap door enough to slide it into the trap.
- 🐾 Fill water bowls with only half an inch of water at the bottom. This will keep the cat dry and safe. Wobbly cats will knock over water bowls.

### **RELEASING THE CATS: ONLY RELEASE CATS THAT ARE FULLY AWAKE!!**

**If cats are fully awake the next day, they can be released in the same location from which they were trapped. Relocating or releasing a cat at a location other than the one from which they were trapped is not only inhumane, it is against state law and can result in a \$1,000 fine per animal.**

If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please contact us at **551-7163**. If there is an after-hours emergency, contact your regular veterinarian or local emergency hospital. Bring this form with you and present it to the veterinarian. Anesthetic protocol used:

0.15mL TKD (bottle of Telazol reconstituted with 4mL ketamine and 1mL Dexdormator ) administered IM (0.1mL for kittens under 4lbs). 1mL/20lb body wt. Pen-G administered SQ post-op.

Additional notes: \_\_\_\_\_