



# Recovery Care Instructions for Community Cats

If you have any concerns or questions about the recovery of your cat, please call (859) 420-4076. Please note it is your responsibility to carefully follow the instructions below and provide the extra care your cat needs after surgery. If the incision area becomes inflamed, infected, or open, call us. If the cat is bleeding, vomiting, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up after many hours, call the nearest veterinary emergency hospital.

Your cat received the following injections today: rabies vaccine, FVRP vaccine, and pain medication.

## **DAY/NIGHT OF SURGERY:**

### **LEAVE THE CAT IN ITS TRAP UNTIL READY FOR RELEASE**

- Always keep the trap covered with a towel, blanket, or sheet to keep the cat calm.
- Cat must be kept in a sheltered climate controlled area while recovering from anesthesia.
- In warm weather, make sure there is enough ventilation, so the cat does not overheat.
- In cooler weather, additional towels or blankets may be needed to keep the cat warm.
- If the cat is in a humane trap, you will want to elevate the trap a few inches off the floor (ex. placing on table). Put a towel or tarp, newspaper, or potty pads under the trap to catch any urine, feces, or food.
- Monitor hourly until fully awake. Continue to monitor the cat throughout the evening to make sure it is breathing normally and not experiencing any heavy bleeding.
- Do not be alarmed if the cat experiences head bobbing, wobbling, drooling, slight bleeding from ear-tip, or slight swelling of incision site. These are all normal behaviors or occurrences post-surgery. Extra care for kittens. Should be kept warm (ex. warm dry towel in trap). If lethargic or not waking up, try rubbing syrup (ex. Karo) on gums while moving the kitten around.

### **FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS**

- Only offer food and water once the cat is fully awake and able to sit up on its own.
- It is very important to feed and water a kitten under 4 months of age as soon as it is awake.
- Water needs to be provided in a shallow container, such as a jar lid. You want to avoid a large container of water in case it should spill.
- Offer a small amount of food in a shallow container or on a piece of paper.
- It is possible that the cat may not want to eat due to being in an unfamiliar environment.
- If the cat eats the food, offer more food after 2-3 hours.

## **DAY AFTER SURGERY:**

### **RELEASING**

- Normally a cat can be released the morning after surgery. If it was sick or injured prior to surgery, you may need to keep it secure for an extra day. You do not want to keep or confine a cat for longer than 48 hours. Longer than 48 hours increases stress which will delay/prevent proper healing and recovery.
- The cat needs to be fully alert and showing signs of normal behavior before being released.
- Always release the cat in the area where you caught it or the area where it is fed.
- Leave fresh food or water at the release site, if neither is present.
- The sutures used are dissolvable, so the cat will not need to be re-trapped for the stitches to be removed.