



Surgery Recovery Instructions

Thank you for bringing the free-roaming community cats for sterilization today. Your concern has helped lessen the burden of cat overpopulation. For today's surgery the cats received a long-acting injection of anesthetic and pain medication. When discharged to you, these drugs may still influence the cats, even if the cats appear fully recovered. Consequently, you should monitor the cats for a minimum of 24 hours following surgery in order to provide the best and safest care possible.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

- **Please keep all cats in their traps until the day after surgery**, even if they appear to be friendly and alert. This provides protection and security for both the cats and for the people that work with them.
- **The cats will be groggy and need to sleep overnight.** Please do not disturb them by reaching into the trap - they often overreact and may bite! Anyone who is bitten or scratched by a cat should receive immediate medical attention. Do not release a cat that has caused an injury until authorized by Alachua County Animal Services.
- **Do not give food or water to adult cats** on the same day as surgery. They may spill the water and get their incision wet. Also, they may vomit and accidentally inhale the vomited food or water. Cats can receive food and water the next morning when they are fully awake.
- **Kittens should be offered a small amount of canned food** the night of surgery as soon as they are fully recovered from anesthesia. Feeding helps prevent low blood sugar.
- **Keep the cats in their traps in a warm, draft-free area** such as a bathroom or garage overnight. Never leave cats outside following surgery. The cats cannot regulate their body temperature while recovering from anesthesia and are susceptible to death from heat or cold exposure.
- **Normal behaviors that occur during recovery** include head bobbing, wobbly movements, agitation, shivering, and hypersensitivity to light and sound. No cat should be released the next day if it continues to exhibit these signs.
- **Abnormal behaviors during recovery** include continued bleeding from the surgery incisions, difficulty breathing, vomiting, and inability to awaken. Contact us at the phone numbers below if you observe these behaviors.
- **If the cats are fully awake the next day**, they may be offered food and water and released back to the colony. If the cat is not yet fully awake or is bleeding, please call the Operation Catnip emergency number below.
- **Vaccine boosters** are free - for Operation Catnip graduates at our Sunday clinics only. To protect this cat and the community from rabies - bring this cat back in a trap in one year for vaccination and then every 3 years after that. If this was a kitten less than 3 months old, the rabies vaccination administered today is not considered valid for a certificate. The kitten should be brought back to one of our Sunday clinics in 2 months for an official rabies vaccination and certificate.
- **If the unfortunate circumstance occurs that a cat dies** or needs to be euthanized at a veterinary practice after being discharged to you, call Operation Catnip so that we can assess the circumstances. We may request to perform an autopsy.

If you have any concerns about the recovery of a cat, please call Operation Catnip right away:

- **During regular office hours (T-F 1pm-6pm, Sat 9am-noon):** (352) 380-0940 for Operation Catnip staff.
- **After hours:** Emergency hotline at (352) 665-9514 staffed by an on-call volunteer.

If a cat has a situation that you feel cannot wait for assistance from Operation Catnip, please call your local pet emergency clinic. Payment of fees for care at a veterinary clinic is your responsibility, not the responsibility of Operation Catnip.

CAT LOVERS LIKE YOU make Operation Catnip possible. – You can support community cats by -volunteering your time and donating your money. -. Even with the generosity of so many volunteers, it costs Operation Catnip about \$50 to **provide life-saving and life-changing** care for each kitty -. Please give generously.