



Community Cat Post-Operative Care Instructions

By bringing feral cats here for sterilization, you have helped lessen the burden of cat overpopulation. Your cat(s) were given anesthetic and the combination of this and surgery is a stressful experience for them. To minimize this stress, make sure to follow these discharge instructions fully.

- The staff will inform you of each cat's status and any special instructions prior to leaving the clinic if additional care is needed, as these cats require special handling.
- If possible, please keep the cat(s) in a temperature controlled, draft-free environment during their recovery. After anesthesia, the cats are unable to control their body temperature.
- Keep their traps or carriers covered at all times. This provides protection and security. Keep the traps lined underneath with newspaper to keep the cat(s) dry.
- Offer food and water only when you get home. Cats may try to escape otherwise.
- For your safety, do not attempt to touch the cats. Stitches do not need to be removed.
- During kitten season (spring/summer), nursing females should be released as soon as they appear fully awake. They will still be able to nurse the kittens after surgery.
- Use your discretion for time of release. It is recommended, keeping trapped cats in a covered and secure trap overnight. If the cat is not comfortable in the trap and may cause injury to itself, the cat should be immediately released back where he/she was originally trapped.
- **Abnormal signs that will need attention by veterinary staff during the recovery include any discharge coming from the surgery site, abnormal smells, biting/chewing at incision site, and continued lethargy (not feeling well).**
- If you have any concerns about the recovery of the cat, please call us at 518-374-3944, ext. 121 or 125 and explain your situation. Our staff can often address questions and refer you to appropriate veterinary care. If a cat has a situation you feel you cannot wait for assistance from us, please call your local veterinary clinic. The fees for care at a veterinary clinic are the responsibility of the caregivers, not the APF Community Spay/Neuter Clinic.