



Post-Surgery Instructions For FERAL CATS

Pain relief/Sutures - Your feral cat was given two pain medication injections, Meloxicam and Buprenorphine. A small green tattoo line is on the stomach. Females- sutures are internal and will dissolve. Males - do not have sutures, but have a small incision to the scrotum; these will be healed completely by the time you release him.

After surgery, allow the cat to recover in the live trap - For the cat's safety and yours, DO NOT transfer the cat into another trap or carrier. The least amount of human contact makes for less stress and is better for the cat. It is much less stressful for them to stay in the trap. It is important that the recovery location is temperature controlled. A basement, bathroom or spare room usually works well. A garage may work if not too hot, cold or drafty. Place a tarp or plastic drop cloth lined with newspaper under the trap. A puppy pad or newspaper should be placed inside the trap to help absorb feces/urine. Cover traps loosely with a large towel or sheet so that the cat feels safer and leave some space through which the cat can get fresh air.

Monitor the cat – The cat should be fully alert when you pick them up and able to eat normally. Only check on them when feeding and cleaning. Monitor the cat's breathing, for possible bleeding and for other visible signs that indicate a change from its usual behavior. Keep children and other animals away from the area and avoid loud noises and music. Cats prefer it to be quiet and dark.

Provide food and water - Offer food and water as soon as possible. They will only have had a small meal while in our care. Use a trap divider “fork” to make cleaning & feeding safe. We have them available for loan. Do not open the trap or stick your fingers or hands in the trap without a trap divider. Keep the trap locked at all times. Lift the sheet up and uncover just the trap area you need access to. This will cause less stress for them and allow you access to the side you need. Cats will typically move to the darker/covered areas naturally.

Keep cats until they recover - In general, they need to be held one to two nights after surgery. The first night is with us. We suggest 1 night for males and 2 nights for females. Nursing mothers may be returned once completely conscious to care for their kittens. Make sure all cats are fully conscious, clear-eyed, alert and had a good meal before release. Sometimes special medical or severe weather circumstances require holding a little longer than 48 hours. In this case, transfer cat to a “holding pen” or large crate where litter can be provided.

Return the cats - Release the cat in the same place you trapped them. Place the covered trap up to a bush or something similar the cat can feel safe hiding behind or in. Pull back the cover some and give the cat a few minutes to get oriented. Open the trap door. The cat may hesitate a few moments before leaving the trap. This is no cause for alarm. Resume feeding on schedule and provide water. It is not uncommon for a cat to “disappear” for a few days once returned to their “home”. They will eventually return for meals. Adequate shelter from the weather should be provided and established prior to return.

Questions/Emergency

If there are any questions/problems/concerns, call/email us immediately at the clinic the cat visited.

Warren: **586- 879-1745**; Flint: **810-780-4978**; clinic@allaboutanimalsrescue.org

For after-hours emergencies, please contact an after-hours clinic. Please note, we are not affiliated with any other clinics and additional charges will apply.