

SURGERY RECOVERY INSTRUCTIONS

Caretakers-CATS/KITTENS IN TRAPS SHOULD BE COVERED WITH A SHEET/BLANKET (weather depending) AT ALL TIMES TO PREVENT UN-NEEDED STRESS!

- 1) Recovery area should be **quiet and comfortable!**
 - 2) **Dissolvable sutures** will be used. This eliminates the need for a follow-up visit to remove stitches. An antibiotic shot can be given at the expense of the caretaker to help prevent infection but is really not necessary. **Please follow our instructions!** Do not put the cats or kittens in danger.
 - 3) Be prepared to shelter the cats at least overnight. **Do Not Release the Cats the Day of Surgery!** All cats should be completely alert and not staggering before being released.
 - 4) After surgery, all cats must be kept in a warm area indoors and monitored for bleeding, infection, illness and appetite. Leave the cats in the traps or carriers in which they were placed after surgery. The trap doors should be firmly closed and locked and the traps covered with a sheet or blanket to calm them.
 - 5) Place the traps/carriers in a temperature controlled, spare room, bathroom or basement overnight. Plastic or newspaper under the traps will catch any expelling from the cats.
 - 6) Never stick your fingers through the bars of a trap or otherwise attempt to touch or handle the cats. Stray or feral cats are not vicious but when scared (even under anesthesia), they may react to strange people, noises and activity. You could be injured.
 - 7) Look in on the cats every hour to check their progress. The cats will appear groggy as they recover from anesthesia.
 - ⇒ Be aware the anesthesia can have hallucinogenic effects that cause cats to overreact to normal stimulation or to become aggressive. (See item #6) Anesthesia will wear off in 4 to 24 hours.
 - ⇒ There should be no signs of bleeding or undue distress. If a cat is bleeding, vomiting, breathing with difficulty or not waking up, call the veterinarian immediately.
 - ⇒ If a cat is vomiting, turn his/her head to the side, so the liquid can come out. Do not place the cat in vomit. **Wear sturdy gloves when handling the cat.** (See item #6)
 - 8) **Both males and females should be sheltered overnight.** The morning after surgery, check that the cats are alert and clear-eyed and do not display any signs of illness. If they appear healthy, they can be released the morning after surgery, barring inclement weather or extreme outdoor temperatures. If a female was pregnant, however, she should be held for an additional night but fed and watered. **(Wear gloves and be very cautious)**
 - 9) If you must keep the cats longer than one night, provide both food and water. Moist food is preferable because it is more easily digested. Feed small amounts at first. Water is needed for hydration. (Tender Vittles is excellent for recovering cats)/Feed kittens as soon as alert!
 - 10) Release the cats at the site where they were trapped. Provide fresh water and food. The cats may disappear for a few hours or days but will return when they have calmed down. **Never relocate the cats to a new area.**
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