

After Surgery:

How to Care for Your Community Cat

Thank you for bringing stray or feral cats for sterilization today. Your concern has helped lessen the burden of cat overpopulation. The cats were given a long acting injection of anesthetic and pain medication for today's surgery. They may still be under the influence of these drugs at the time of discharge, even if they appear to be fully recovered. Consequently, you should monitor the cats for a minimum of 24 hours following surgery in order to provide the best care possible for the cats.

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 Duval or other county Animal Services.
- Do not give adult cats food or water in the trap the same day as surgery was performed. They may spill the water and may vomit and aspirate if fed. You can give them food and water the next morning when they are fully awake. **NOTE:** Kittens should be offered a small amount of canned food the night of surgery as soon as they are fully recovered from anesthesia. This helps keep their blood sugar normal.
- Keep the cats in their traps in a warm, draft-free area like a bathroom or garage until the next morning. Cats should never be left 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 number below if you observe these.
- If the cats are fully awake the next day, they may be released back to their colony and offered food and water. If the cat is not yet fully awake or is bleeding, please contact us at the number below.
- If you have any concerns about the recovery of the cats, please call us at (904) 425-0005 or appointments@EveryPet.org.
- If a cat has a situation that you feel cannot wait for assistance from EVERYPET, please call your local pet emergency clinic. Payment of fees for care at a veterinary clinic is your responsibility, EVERYPET is unable to assist with those costs.