



## After Surgery Care Guidelines

- 1) **Be sure to check over the cat and carrier before you take them home** to make sure that you have the right carrier.
  - 2) **Do not put the cat in the back of an open truck or in the trunk.**
  - 2) **Please keep cats indoors overnight in a warm, quiet, and dry place after surgery.** The cats will still be sedated after their surgery, and so will have difficulty maintaining their body temperature. These cats will not be able to escape danger outside, and will have difficulty finding food. Please do not put several cats in the same carrier, or loose in the same room, because, in their disoriented state, they may fight with each other. The cats can be released the morning after their surgery provided they appear alert and active.
  - 3) **Please keep visits to check on the cats short and quiet** (ie: no excited children, friends, or other animals). Do not cuddle or otherwise restrain these cats. They are feral, and restraint such as this can be distressing to them, even though they are too weak to fight it. These cats (especially the females) are recovering from major abdominal surgery – they need their rest.
  - 4) **Feed the cats a small amount of food and water once they are fully awake.** If they do not want to eat, that's ok.
  - 5) **Neutered male cats.** The two small incisions are not sutured shut. This allows for drainage of any fluid from the wound. A drop or two of blood falling from this incision, therefore, is not a cause for concern.
  - 6) **Spayed female cats.** A moderate amount of bruising, redness, and swelling is to be expected at the incision site for several days after surgery.
  - 7) **The cat's behaviour may be different after surgery.** The cat will be disoriented from the sedation. The cat may also smell of antiseptics for several days – this may upset it, or other cats it normally associates with.
  - 8) **Signs to watch for:**
    - Cat still depressed or unable to rise hours later.
    - Raw, open wound, or any pus at the incision site.
    - Persistent vomiting.
- If you see any of these signs, please contact us.
- 9) **If you have borrowed a trap or carrier from CAT please return it within 2-3 weeks.** We have a limited number of these, they are expensive and we need them for spay/neuter clinics at other locations. Please rinse out any dirt from the carrier, and disinfect the carrier (ideally disinfect with Javex ). Contact your Colony Coordinator for return . Do not return the carriers to the clinics.
  - 10) **Any donations** at all (food, cash, hot water bottles, towels, etc.) are greatly appreciated.