



## Before Surgery Care Guidelines

**1) Please do not feed cats after they have been caught.** While food bait often needs to be used to catch a feral cat, please put only a small amount of bait in the cage (equivalent to a light meal). Under no circumstances should you feed any food or water to a cat once it is successfully caught (ideally no food for 12 hours prior to surgery). If a cat has a full stomach when it is anesthetized, it has a greater chance of vomiting, and aspirating this food down into its lungs. This can be fatal.

**2) Please keep captured cats in a warm, dry and quiet place.** Please drape a light sheet or towel over the cage to reduce stress. Please keep visits to these cats short and quiet. Try to keep stress on these cats to a minimum.

**3) Please be patient when picking up the cat after surgery.** We often receive more cats than we planned. Different cats take longer to recover from surgery than others. Sometimes cats can not be brought in to be neutered at the ideal time. For all these reasons, and many more, we can not guarantee a specific time when the cat will be ready for discharge. We also can not guarantee that we will be able to neuter the cat. We do the best we can in volunteering to provide this free service despite equipment limitations, time limitations, and a large number of cats.

**4) Please make sure that the door to the carrier is secure.** We do not want the cage door to fall open and have the cat loose in your car, the hospital, or the parking lot.

**5) Any cats that test positive for Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) will be euthanized (humanely destroyed) before they wake up from general anesthesia.** This procedure is painless, and is performed to prevent the infected cats from spreading the disease to other feral and domesticated cats. This is also to spare the infected cats a potential slow and painful death from these viruses in the future.