



Post-Surgery Instructions for Community Cats

Cat Name _____ IMP or ACS # _____

Return location:

FOR STAFF: Put an X in the circle beside the applicable statement and have the client sign/date:

- I agree to return the cat to the same location where they were found.
- I agree NOT to return the cat to the same location where they were originally impounded:
 - Location: _____

Client Signature

Date

All cats have received the following:

- Spay/neuter
- Rabies and FVRCP vaccines
- Microchipping
- Ear-tipping: the tip of the left ear is surgically removed. It's a universal symbol of a sterilized outdoor cat.
- A green/blue tattoo line on the abdomen

A few things to be aware of:

- At pick-up you will receive: a Health Summary and Rabies Certificate for each cat.
- The stitches used are dissolvable, so they **do not** need to be removed.
- Occasionally, a cat will shake his/her head while waking up from anesthesia, opening up the ear-tipped area and causing some blood to spatter. This is typically only a small amount, and tends to stop quickly.

Transporting the cats post-surgery:

- Before placing the cats in your vehicle, check to see that both of the trap doors are locked.
- Consider putting down a tarp or shower curtain and newspaper/towels under the trap.
- Keep the cat in the main compartment of the vehicle. **Do not place the cats in the trunk or in the open bed of a truck anytime for any reason.**
- Keep the vehicle running and at a comfortable temperature during transport.
- Plan to keep each trap or carrier covered with a blanket or towel to reduce stress.
- Never open the trap doors while transporting. Do not put your hands in the trap or attempt to handle the cats for any reason.

Returning the cats:

- Generally, cats should be returned 24 hours after surgery to give them time to heal.
- Lactating mothers should be returned **as soon as possible, the same day as surgery** so they can continue nursing their kittens. They will continue lactating after surgery.
- Return the cat facing away from the street and 100 feet (or more) from your vehicle.
- Place the trap on a sturdy surface with the door facing away from you (and away from the street), remove the cover, and open the door. The cat will likely run out of the trap. If they don't, tilt the trap so the back is slightly up and tap on the back to encourage the cat to leave. **Do not put your hand in the trap.**
- Resume the feeding schedule. The cat may hide for a few days, which is normal.
- Continue to monitor the cats' behavior: eating, drinking and activity level.
- When storing traps, keep them indoors with the trap doors securely closed.
- If you have a trap on loan, return it as soon as possible. If you need a loan extension, call the TNR hotline.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us by phone from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 410-887-7297 (PAWS). We cannot be held responsible for complications resulting from failure to follow post-op instructions. For all other concerns, contact your veterinarian or the nearest veterinary emergency facility.

