



### POST-SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS-PET CATS

1. **After surgery, allow the cat to recover in the same carrier.** The cat and carrier should be in a warm area (above 60 degrees) because when the cat is recovering from anesthesia, he/she is unable to regulate body temperature. The cat and carrier should be away from loud noises or dangers such as toxic fumes or other animals. A basement or bathroom usually works well.
2. **Monitor the cats.** Check the cat throughout the evening. If a cat is vomiting, bleeding, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up, call SNACK at 614-371-8996.
3. **Hold cat in the carrier until he/she recovers.** Cats can be let out of carriers 12 to 24 hours after surgery, as long as they are fully awake, clear-eyed, alert, and do not require further medical attention.
4. **After the cat is released from the carrier, you can offer about one half the normal amount of food and water.** If the cat vomits, remove the food and try again in the morning.
5. **Return a nursing mother to her kittens as soon as possible** once she is fully conscious, clear-eyed, and alert.
6. **Thoroughly clean the carrier with a nontoxic disinfectant after the cats are released.**
7. **Over the next week, keep your cat inside and restrict his/her activity to promote a good recovery.** Monitor your cat for signs of post-surgical complications such as swelling at the surgical site, depression, lethargy, or excessive grooming. If these complications occur, contact SNACK or the Fredericktown Veterinary Clinic at 740-694-5926.

### POST-SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS-FERAL CATS

1. **Put your safety first.** Keep the traps covered to reduce the cat's stress. *Do not put your fingers through the bars or attempt to handle the cats!*
2. **Feed and provide the cats with water after they regain consciousness.** When feeding the cats, lift the back door of the trap very slowly and allow only a small gap (one-half to one inch) to open. Slide a plastic lid with a little bit of food on it through the gap without putting your hand inside. Do not offer food or water until the cats are completely awake.
3. **Return the cats.** Release the cat in the same place you trapped him or her. Open the front door of the trap and pull back the cover. If the trap has a rear door, pull the cover away from the back door, pull that door up and off, then completely remove the cover and walk away. *We strongly recommend releasing feral cats the day after surgery; however, if there is a reason the cats are being held longer than 24 hours, the newspaper in the trap will need to be changed twice daily and fresh food and water provided until release.*