



FERAL CAT

DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

HOLDING CATS IN TRAPS AFTER SURGERY

The following holding times are offered as guidelines only:

- Healthy male cats: 12-24 hours following surgery
- Healthy female cats: 24-48 hours following surgery (72 if she was pregnant)
- *A lactating female cat may be returned to the site of trapping 12-24 hours after surgery, as long as she is adequately recovered from anesthesia.*

Confinement may be extremely stressful for free-roaming cats. If, after the incision site appears normal and the cat has adequately recovered from anesthesia, the cat shows any signs of stress—repeated attempts to escape the trap or not eating—the cat should be released.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Feral cats have a heightened stress response, making the post-surgical period a crucial time for careful monitoring and stress mitigation. Following these discharge instructions meticulously is crucial for a smooth and stress-free recovery.

- Cats should remain in the humane trap during the recovery period. Do not attempt to remove the feral cat from the trap, as this can lead to injury to both the cat and the handler.
- Please ensure the cat is kept in a climate-controlled area, free from drafts, for the duration of their recovery. If there is nothing else, try to keep the cat(s) in a sheltered area protected from the elements.
- Ensure the traps remained covered to provide protection and security. Use newspaper to line the trap, absorbing any moisture and keeping the cat dry.
- Upon arriving home, offer the cat(s) food and water. Remember to be extremely cautious if you must open the trap, even slightly, to avoid escape.

RETURNING CATS

Returning a cat to its original location is generally the best approach after TNR. Relocating cats is only recommended as a last resort. If relocation is necessary, it should be done carefully, ensuring the new location is suitable and the cats are properly introduced to any new animals or environment. To release a feral cat from a trap, ensure the cat is safely contained and then open the trap door from a distance, allowing the cat to exit on its own. Never put your hand in the trap. If the cat is hesitant, try covering the trap with a towel and then uncovering the exit to encourage it to leave.

POST-SURGICAL CONCERNS

If your pet exhibits any of the following signs during recovery: active bleeding or drainage from the surgical site, foul odors emanating from the area, excessive licking or chewing at the incision, lack of appetite or thirst, inability to urinate or defecate, or persistent lethargy beyond what is expected after surgery.

Contact our office M-Th 7:30am-4pm, text to 336-444-2725 or

info.SpayNeuterRoCo@gmail.com, send details about concern along with any photos.

If after hours, contact emergency services:

- **Carolina Veterinary Specialist-336-632-0605**
- **Truss Vet-Veterinary Urgent Care-336-314-2898**