



Feline Discharge Instructions

Feeding

Limit your cat's **food and water** tonight. Half of what you normally feed them is a good place to start. You may offer small amounts of water and food throughout the evening. Anesthesia causes nausea, so they may have no appetite or they may vomit- both are normal. Do not attempt to feed until your cat is completely awake. S/he should be able to resume normal feeding in the morning.

Exercise/Activity

The effects of anesthesia can last **up to 24 hours**. It affects your cat's ability to **regulate their own body temperature** and may **affect temperament**. Keep them warm, quiet, and away from stairs, children, and other pets. We recommend keeping them in a **small room** (like a bathroom or a bedroom) tonight to prevent any falls; they may be a little wobbly.

Your pet may be tired or more quiet than usual for a day or two following surgery. Let your cat resume normal activity at his or her own pace. It is important that you keep them **indoors for at least 24 hours**, ideally for **7 days**, to allow the incision to heal. Of course, we recommend that cats regularly stay indoors at all times. Allowing your cat outdoors exposes him or her to grave danger, such as diseases, parasites, accidental injury or death, attacks from other animals, poison, and theft.

Feral cats can typically be released in the location they were trapped after **24 hours**, as long as they are alert, eating, and are not showing any signs of lethargy or unusual behavior. Please keep in mind some feral cats may not feel comfortable eating while confined in a strange area. During their recovery, they should be kept in a warm and quiet place. We recommend covering the trap with a towel or sheet to help keep them calm during recovery and transport.

Incision Site

Keep the incision site clean and dry. No bandages are necessary. It is a rare occurrence that a cat goes home with an E-Collar. There is no need for ointments or antibiotics. Should the incision need cleaning, do so *gently* and be sure to *dry thoroughly*.

Female Cats-

Will have shaved tummies and **dissolvable sutures**, so you do not need to return for suture removal. Please keep an eye on her incision site, checking it once or twice a day. Inspect the incision site the day of surgery so you can note any changes. A little redness and swelling is normal. About 35% of female cats will develop a **small firm knot** right under the incision. This is a normal reaction to the suture

material and could take up to **90 days** to completely resolve. Female cats will also receive a permanent green **tattoo** on or near her incision site; do not confuse this small green line for infection.

Male Cats-

The incision is so small (generally less than ¼ inch long) that sutures are not necessary. Keep the incision site clean and dry. It should be completely healed in about 5-7 days.

Medications

Your pet was given an injection today to help with pain. If applicable, they will be going home with additional pain medication. This may be started tonight if needed. Please follow all instructions on the label.

Special Care

It is not necessary to use special litter.

THANK YOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET!!!

***Call to report any significant symptoms, for example, unusual **redness, swelling, discharge, bleeding**, or if your cat has not returned to **normal eating and activity within 24 hours**.**

We offer rechecks **free of charge.**

****Please note that our facility has limited hours. In case of an emergency during our regular business hours, call 804-359-6369. If an emergency occurs when the hospital is not open, and your animal must be seen immediately, call our after hours emergency phone at 804-754-6810.***

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER 804-754-6810