



Important Aftercare Instructions - Feral Cat

When You Get Home

- **Keep cats warm:** Cats should be held in a comfortable, temperature-regulated environment. Anesthesia lowers a cat's body temperature. Make sure cats are not too hot or too cold.
- **Keep them safe:** Cats in traps should be in an enclosed area where they are safe from other animals.
- **Keep them dry:** Place a towel or sheet under trap to keep the cat dry.
- **Keep them quiet:** Keep the trap covered at all times. Cats in uncovered traps can hurt themselves trying to get out.
- **Offer them food & water:** Open trap door just enough to slide in wet food and water. Some feral cats are too afraid to eat.

Kittens: If kittens are under four months of age they should eat as soon as you get home. If your kitten does not eat wet food, try feeding baby food (without onion powder in the ingredients, such as Gerbers, chicken and turkey) to entice them to eat.

When to Release

- **Nursing/Lactating females only:** Should be released the **night of surgery** so they can return to their kittens and nurse them as soon as possible
- **Keep all other cats overnight:** So you can monitor their recovery (see below for "Things to Watch For")
- **Release them the day after surgery if:**
 - They are alert and eating and there are no issues (see below for **Things to Watch For**)
 - And, if there are no special instructions from the vet to keep the cat(s) longer
- **Always release cats in the area where they were caught.** Point the front of the trap so it opens to an area as free of obstructions as possible, and not facing a busy street.

Things To Watch For

- **Anesthetic Effects:** You may notice some head bobbing and weaving overnight, and your cat's eyes may have a glassy appearance. This is normal after anesthesia. He or she may seem drowsy, and there may be shivering or trembling. If this persists beyond 24 hours, contact the FOF Spay-Neuter Center. **Do not release cats until they are fully alert.**
- **Bleeding/Bruising:** There may be a small amount of blood seeping from the incision. If this persists, please call us. Bruising under or near the spay site is normal, but if it seems extensive, contact the FOF Spay-Neuter Center.
- **Stitches:** There is no need to return to Fix Our Ferals for suture removal. The sutures are dissolvable.
- **Licking:** Monitor the cat to ensure that he or she is not licking the incision site. If there is a great deal of swelling, inflammation or discharge oozing around the site, contact the FOF Spay-Neuter Center.

Surgery Complications—What to Do

Issues related to the surgery will be treated at the Fix Our Ferals Spay-Neuter Center under the following guidelines:

- For any complications you notice between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, please call (510) 215-9300 to arrange for follow-up care.
- **For after-hours emergencies:** 6 p.m. to 8 a.m., or on days when the FOF Center is closed, please call the Pets Referral Center, 1048 University Ave, Berkeley CA (510) 548-6684 and tell them your cat was fixed at the Fix Our Ferals Spay-Neuter Center.