

COMMUNITY CAT POST-OPERATIVE DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS



This community cat had a major surgery. Following the instructions below will help to ensure the cat has a safe and comfortable recovery.



TEMPORARY HOUSING

Pet Community Center requires that all community cats be housed overnight in their traps in a safe, indoor location for the night following surgery. Certain circumstances may dictate a female needs to be contained for a longer period of time, as directed by your veterinarian and/or community cat coordinator. If there are still cats to trap, you can keep fixed cats in the trap in the temperature-controlled location for up to 72 hours after surgery.

Keep the cat in the trap in which they were placed after surgery, and keep the back trap door locked at all times. Place the trap in a quiet, well-ventilated, temperature-controlled (60 to 80 degrees), enclosed area with four walls and a roof.

Keep the trap covered with a sheet or light blanket during the recovery period (but not too heavy so that the cat does not get too hot). Do not handle the cat or put your fingers in the trap. Community cats are not vicious, but they are scared of people, strange noises, and activity.



FEEDING WHILE INDOORS

When feeding the cat, place canned food on a plastic lid with a little water around it. Be careful when opening the carrier or trap so that the cat does not escape. You can also pour food and water through the wire cage if there are already bowls inside the trap or place trap on a paper plate of canned food (food will squish up through the bars). Not all feral cats will eat overnight due to stress.



CHECK-IN PERIODICALLY

Check-in on the cat periodically. If it is bleeding, vomiting, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up, call Pet Community Center immediately. Do not give the cat human medications. The cat does not need to return to Pet Community Center for suture removal because the sutures will dissolve. All animals receive a green tattoo next to their incision. This tattoo is a scoring process in the skin - it is not an extra incision.



HOW TO RELEASE

Make sure to release the cats at the same site they were trapped during a time when there is little traffic. Relocating cats is dangerous and can be deadly to the cat if not done properly. Place the trap with one end uncovered and facing toward the direction they should travel, and let them orient for a few minutes, then open the door. Some cats will come out quickly, and others will take a bit longer.

Provide fresh food, water, and shelter (especially important in the winter months). The cats may disappear for a few hours or days, but they will return after they have calmed down.

Please clean the traps before returning with any household cleaner except bleach.



CALL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the 10 day recovery period, please call us at the following phone numbers:

- **(615) 512-5001:** During clinic hours (Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)
- **(615) 802-8387:** After hours and weekends until 11 PM (You may also text this line.)

COMMUNITY CAT VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS (AS TEMPERAMENT ALLOWS)



FVRCP (aka FELINE DISTEMPTER)

This vaccine protects against the following: Feline viral rhinotracheitis (aka feline herpes -- a disease of the respiratory system), calicivirus (a disease of the respiratory system), and panleukopenia (a virus that causes serious -- potentially deadly -- GI disease in kittens and unvaccinated cats).

- **6 - 18 Weeks Old**
 - **Initial Vaccinations (aka "Kitten Shots"):** All kittens over the age of 6 weeks and under the age of 18 weeks (4 ½ months) should receive an FVRCP vaccine every 2-4 weeks until 18 weeks old.
- **5 Months or Older**
 - For cats who HAVE NOT received an FVRCP vaccination in the last 12 months or cats with an UNKNOWN history, it is recommended that they receive an FVRCP vaccination at the time of surgery and that this vaccine is boosted 3-4 weeks after surgery.
 - For cats known to have received a vaccination within the last 12 months, an FVRCP vaccination is not recommended, but owners can opt for a vaccine if they choose.



RABIES

Rabies is a virus that infects the nervous system and causes death in 100% of animals that are infected. It is transmitted by bites. Bats, raccoons, and skunks are the most common animals to transmit the disease to dogs.

- **Under 12 Weeks Old**
 - Feral kittens are routinely vaccinated under the age of 12 weeks because this may be the only time that they will ever see a veterinarian. For these kittens, it is recommended that the rabies vaccine be given again at 12 weeks old.
- **12 Weeks or Older**
 - For cats that HAVE NOT received a RABIES vaccination in the last 12 months or cats with an UNKNOWN history, it is recommended that they receive a RABIES vaccination at the time of surgery and that this vaccine is boosted 1 year later.
 - For cats known to have received a vaccination within the last 12 months, a rabies vaccination is not recommended, but owners can opt for a vaccine if they choose.



FeLV (aka FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS)

Feline leukemia virus is transmitted through prolonged close contact (e.g. animals that groom each other frequently). Vaccination is recommended for animals that are living with animals known to be FeLV-positive or animals housed in groups with other unfamiliar cats (e.g. group housing in a shelter or rescue).