

Sparta TNR Inc. POST-OP Instructions



KEEP THE CAT VERY WARM UNTIL FULLY AWAKE!!!

1. Keep the cat in its carrier/trap until it can move around normally

The cat can injure itself as well as you and your property if released too soon. Its coordination is hindered by anesthesia, so it won't be able to jump or climb normally until the anesthesia fully wears off.

2. Keep the carrier/trap in a warm, dry, draft-free sheltered area that you can check on frequently

Cats who haven't fully recovered from anesthesia are at risk of hypothermia (dangerously low body temperature) which can cause re-anesthesia and perhaps death.

- While the cat is still drowsy, keep the carrier/trap in a very warm room
- Cover the carrier/trap with sheets, towels or blankets to help the cat preserve body heat. If the carrier/trap is on a cold floor, place a thick towel or blanket under it as well.
- Make sure there is ample ventilation in warm weather, so that the cat does not overheat

3. If the cat is alert, provide water in a way that won't spill and wet its bedding. The cat does not need water if it is eating canned food

- For cats over 4 pounds: Provide canned food when fully awake
- For kittens under 4 pounds: Provide a small amount (1 tablespoon) of canned food as soon as the cat is awake enough to eat safely. Provide additional canned food (about half the amount of a normal meal) 2-3 hours later

4. Normal surgery reactions:

- Ear tips: Minor bleeding is expected
- Males: Minor bleeding is expected for the first 24 hours. Larger toms may bleed more, but should not require treatment
- Females: Many females develop a sterile suture reaction. A bump appears at the incision site days after surgery. **THIS IS NOT AN INFECTION!** Suture reactions are sterile and don't require antibiotic treatment. They are caused by the body breaking down the absorb-able suture, which we use because it doesn't have to be removed after the skin heals.

5. Observe the cat for recovery problems

The cat should be able to move around normally by 8pm. If the cat is unable to stay awake, has difficulty breathing or excessive bleeding, or if you notice any abnormalities (swelling, redness, discharge) at the incision site, please seek veterinary attention first. Call us at 608-433-0263 and a representative will help you.

Medications the cat may have received:

- Anesthesia and Pain relief
- Flea Treatment
- Vaccines

Try to keep the patient quiet for the next 5 to 7 days (limit running or jumping as best you can). No bathing for a minimum of 14 days. Ideally, outdoor cats will need to be kept indoors for the next 7-14 days but we understand that confinement may not be available so we ask a minimum of 24-48 hours before re-release.