

Post Spay/Neuter Surgical Care Instructions

1. Unless told otherwise, your pet does not have external sutures. The cat was given dissolvable sutures which will dissolve within 30 days. All sutures are absorbable and the outer layer of skin is held together with surgical glue. Do not clean or apply topical ointment to the incision site. Male cats do not have any sutures. As the wound heals, there may be a firm lump under the incision as the absorbable sutures break down.
2. Pets must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and comfortable. Please limit their activity; no running, jumping, rowdy play, or other strenuous activity during the recovery time period. Animals should not be bathed for a minimum of 14 days following surgery.
3. Please check the incision site twice daily. There should not be any drainage. Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow pet to lick or chew at the incision site.
4. Immediately after surgery, feed only kittens that are four months old or younger. Do not feed adult cats until at least eight hours after surgery. The cat's appetite should return gradually in the next 24 hours. Do not change your pet's diet and do not give junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other people food during the recovery period since doing so could mask post-surgical complications.
5. Spaying and neutering are very safe surgeries; however, complications can occur. Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days. If it persists longer, please contact your vet. Please contact a vet immediately if you notice any of the following: pale gums, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, discharge or bleeding from the incision, difficulty urinating, and/or labored breathing.
6. If your female cat was in heat (estrus) at the time of surgery, you must keep them away from un-neutered males for at least two weeks. If a male tries to mate with her, serious bleeding and trauma to the reproductive tract may occur, possibly leading to death.
7. If you have any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery time period, please do not hesitate to contact the veterinarian who performed the surgery. If there is an emergency after hours, please contact your regular vet.
8. Your female cat may have a small green tattoo line near/on their incision mark on their stomach. This is a permanent tattoo to indicate they have been spayed/neutered.

Special Instructions for Recovering Feral Cats

1. After surgery, cats must be kept indoors and monitored for bleeding, infection, illness, and/or appetite. Place the traps/carriers in a warm spare room, bathroom, garage, or basement overnight. Cats must not be recovered outside in extreme hot or cold temperatures.
2. Leave the cats in the traps or carriers in which they were placed after surgery. The trap doors should be firmly closed and locked and the traps covered with a sheet or thin towel.
3. Do not stick your fingers through the bars of a trap or otherwise attempt to touch or handle the cats. Feral cats are scared of humans and can become aggressive after anesthesia, they may react to strange people, noises and activity, and you could be injured.
4. Immediately after surgery, feed kittens that are four months old or younger. Do not feed adult cats until at least eight hours after surgery. A small amount of canned food can be placed on a plastic lid with a little water around it. The cat may not have any appetite. Be careful when opening the trap to be sure that the cat does not escape. Place the food and water in the trap, putting hands in the trap only as far as necessary, and relock the trap door. If you are at all unsure of how to safely open the trap without allowing the cat to escape, please ask Alley Cats and Angels to show you how.
5. **Both males and females should be sheltered overnight. Do not release the cats the day of surgery!** The morning after surgery, check that the cats are alert and clear-eyed and do not display any signs of illness. If they appear healthy, they can be released, barring inclement weather or extreme outdoor temperatures. If a female was pregnant, however, she should be held for an additional day (if possible). ***If the female is lactating, please ask the veterinarian or contact Alley Cats and Angels for release instruction.***
6. If you must keep the cats longer than one night, provide both food and water. Moist food is preferable because it is more easily digested. Feed small amounts of food at first.
7. **Release the cats at the site where they were trapped.** Provide fresh water and food. The cats may disappear for a few hours or days but should return when they have calmed down.