

Post-Operative instructions for Community Cats:

Community Cats can be feral (wild), semi-social, or social. Use caution when handling feral cats. Social or semi-social cats may be released from the cage to a secure location but should be confined in a temperature-controlled area for 24-48 hours if possible. A garage may work if the weather is mild (not too cold or hot). Cover the trap loosely with a large towel or sheet for shelter and warmth. Make sure to leave some space through which the cat can get fresh air. Monitor the cat throughout the evening.

Precautions: Do not stick your finger through the trap/cage or try to touch or handle the cat. If the cat is feral or only semi-social, you could be seriously injured if it bites or scratches you. Always wear protective leather gloves if you feel that you must handle the cat. All animal bites are serious: if you are bitten seek medical attention and do not release the cat. The cat will need to be quarantined. Contact Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, or your local municipal Animal Control Agency for quarantine instructions.

Feeding Instructions: You may offer the cat water and 1/4-1/2 amount of its normal food if the cat is awake/alert. The cat may choose not to eat due to post-operative nausea or being nervous in their surroundings. Do not offer them table scraps, milk, etc.

Cleaning the Cat's Waste: Place newspapers or plastic on the floor under the trap to catch urine, feces, and food that may fall from the trap.

Monitoring the surgical incision: A small amount of redness and swelling is normal. Excessive swelling or drainage is not normal; you should contact either Humane Fort Wayne or your regular veterinarian to determine treatment. Opening of the incision or excessive bleeding is considered an emergency and you should seek immediate veterinary care. Feral cats often pant, vocalize, roll, and may even beat their face on the trap; this is not an emergency and can be normal feral cat behavior when they are confined.

Ear Tip: Occasionally the left ear may bleed after being tipped. This bleeding should not persist. If it does persist, contact either Humane Fort Wayne or your regular veterinarian.

Releasing the Cat: Once the cat is alert, clear-eyed, and shows no signs of illness he/she may be released. Only release cats that are fully awake. Male cats can often be released the morning after surgery; female cats may need to be kept for an additional day. Keeping/confining a feral cat longer than 48 hours creates increased stress for the cat which will prevent proper healing of the surgery site. However, if bad weather or extreme temperatures are present, use good judgment to weigh the risks/benefits of keeping the cat for another day. Humane Fort Wayne will advise on our winter weather protocols for community cats. Always release the cat in the same location where it was trapped. Relocating cats is strongly discouraged due to reports of high mortality. Cats released in a new place will not know where food, water, shelter, or area predators are. When releasing the cat, remove the sheet/towel cover, open trap gate, and back away. Patiently stand back and allow the cat to leave at its own pace, it will usually run away immediately. Leave fresh food and water at the drop site.

If you have concerns, please contact us at 260-420-7729.

For weekend and after-hour emergencies,

please contact us at 260-797-2230.

We offer free rechecks Monday – Friday at 3:00 PM.



Please note, we cannot accommodate early pick-up times.