

## Surgery Recovery Instructions

For today's surgery the cats received a long-acting injection of anesthetic and pain medication. When discharged to you, these drugs may still influence the cats, even if the cats appear fully recovered. Consequently, you should monitor the cats for a minimum of 24 hours following surgery in order to provide the best and safest care possible.

### PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

- Please keep all cats in their traps until the day after surgery, even if they appear to be friendly and alert. This provides protection and security for both the cats and for the people that work with them.
- The cats will be groggy and need to sleep overnight. Please do not disturb them by reaching into the trap -they often overreact and may bite! Anyone who is bitten or scratched by a cat should receive immediate medical attention.
- Do not give food or water to adult cats on the same day as surgery. They may spill the water and get their incision wet. Also, they may vomit and accidentally inhale the vomited food or water. Cats can receive food and water the next morning when they are fully awake.
- Kittens should be offered a small amount of canned food the night of surgery as soon as they are fully recovered from anesthesia. Feeding helps prevent low blood sugar.
- Keep the cats in their traps in a warm, draft-free area such as a bathroom or garage overnight. Never leave cats outside following surgery. The cats cannot regulate their body temperature while recovering from anesthesia and are susceptible to death from heat or cold exposure.
- Normal behaviors that occur during recovery include head bobbing, wobbly movements, agitation, shivering, and hypersensitivity to light and sound. No cat should be released the next day if it continues to exhibit these signs.
- Abnormal behaviors during recovery include continued bleeding from the surgery incisions, difficulty breathing, vomiting, and inability to awaken. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you are concerned about the cat's welfare.
- If the cats are fully awake the next day, they may be offered food and water and released back to the colony.
- The cat's stitches are water-soluble and will dissolve if exposed to water 10 days post-surgery. Limit the cat's exposure to water, including bathes, if possible.