

**KittiCo Cat Rescue Spay Neuter Clinic**  
**Post-Surgery Aftercare Instructions**  
Emergency Pager for 24 Hours after Surgery 214-246-0235

**General Information**

- All feral and stray cats are to be given an eartip, approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association as the universal sign a cat has been spayed or neutered.
- All cats over 3 months of age that are accepted for surgery are vaccinated for rabies; rabies certificates are not provided unless ordered at the time the cat is brought to the clinic.
- All cats are monitored for at least 4 hours after surgery.
- Dissolvable sutures eliminate need for a follow-up visit to remove stitches.
- All cats are treated for most common intestinal worms (except tapeworms), fleas, ticks, most mites, and some lice.
- **DO NOT use Revolution, products containing Ivermectin or its generic form, or other flea products, sprays, dips or collars for 30 days after cat is treated without your veterinarian's approvals as these can be toxic to cat.**

**Additional Information for Indoor Cats**

**Care of Cat After Surgery: YOUR CAT HAS HAD MAJOR SURGERY**

- Let cat rest quietly until next morning. It is unkind and inhumane to play with cat after surgery.
- Check condition hourly until bedtime. If cat vomits, clean that from mouth and nose so cat will not breathe this into lungs and die. Turn cat's head so liquid can run out; don't put cat back in vomit.
- Leave cat in trap or carrier overnight; even "safe" room can be problem if cat leaps up or falls off bed.
- Absorbable sutures are used since these will dissolve; male cats receive no sutures and will only need to be watched for abnormal swelling. Females take longer than males to recuperate, and adults taken longer than kittens.
- Please check incision daily for a week following surgery if have domesticated cat. If incision gets dirty, you can clean this with hydrogen peroxide and a cotton ball. A little pink-tinged seepage and swelling is normal; however, if redness, excessive cloudy drainage or liquid seepage occur, or large swelling appears, please let KittiCo, or your veterinarian of choice, know as soon as possible.
- If domesticated cat licks incision area excessively, purchase e-collar to put on cat to prevent licking.
- After surgery, it is normal to have a small amount of swelling or redness at incision site.
- All animals respond differently to anesthesia. Some may vomit or get a little diarrhea; others may seem groggy a bit longer than others – each cat is unique and responds differently. Some may hallucinate and overact to normal stimulation or become aggressive. Anesthesia usually wears off in 4 to 24 hours.
- Please do not bathe cat for at least 10 days. Indoor cats should be kept out of the dirt for a week to avoid the potential of infection; for female cats, a week to 10 days should be long enough.

**If a cat has significant symptoms within 24 hours after surgery, please contact KittiCo pager 214-246-0235 or your local veterinarian. The KittiCo return phone call will have the caller ID "BLOCKED". This is an emergency contact provided for the immediate post-operative 24 hour period only. KittiCo does not accept responsibility for providing veterinary care if you go to a different vet, nor pay costs incurred at another vet clinic.**

**KittiCo Cat Rescue Spay Neuter Clinic**  
**Post-Surgery Aftercare Instructions for Feral and Stray Cats**  
Emergency Pager for 24 Hours after Surgery 214-246-0235

1. Keep male and female cats overnight. **Do not release cat on day of surgery.** Keep cat in temperature-controlled area. Cats recovering from anesthesia are more likely to get chilled, which may prolong recovery and be harmful. Keep area warm if it's cold out, and cool if it's hot out. Use warm spare room, bathroom, or basement overnight. A garage may work if not too hot, cold or drafty. Cover trap loosely with large towel or sheet for shelter and warmth, and leave some space through which cat can get fresh air.
2. Place newspapers or plastic on floor under trap to catch urine, feces, and food that can fall from trap. Bricks or other suitable objects can help elevate trap off ground so cat is not lying in own waste. Use good judgment; make sure trap is carefully balanced if elevated so it won't topple over.
3. Leave cat in same trap or carrier you picked it up in at clinic. Keep trap and container gates firmly closed and locked. Do not transfer cat from trap. **Allow cat to remain in trap until fully recovered and ready for release the day after surgery.** The cat is impaired after surgery; it is not as alert or as fast; it cannot defend itself against other cats, dogs, or predators, and may wander in front of a car.
4. **Do not stick your fingers through bars of trap or try to touch or handle cats.** Cats are not vicious but – even when apparently anesthetized – may react to people, noises or activity and you could be injured. If you must handle cat (to clean vomit or for other medical reason) **wear sturdy, protective gloves!**
5. Check cat every hour to monitor it for breathing, possible bleeding, and visible signs that indicate a change from its usual behavior. A cat will be groggy when recovering from anesthesia. Typical behaviors may include deep sleep, head bobbing, wobbly movements, fast breathing, and shivering. **No cat should be released the next day if still showing these signs.**
6. Immediately after surgery, feed only kittens that are six months old or younger, only ½ portion of food, preferably mixed with water, and only after animal is standing up. Do not feed adult cat until at least eight hours after surgery. You can place a small amount of canned food on a plastic lid with a little water around it. The cat may not be hungry. Do not over-feed. A cat may vomit if he eats too much soon after anesthesia. Do not over-water. A half-inch of water in a small bowl is enough. Most cats will not be fully awake or able to eat and drink until morning after surgery. You can provide more food and water the next morning, but, again, do not give the cat too much food or water after surgery.
7. Be careful when putting food in trap or carrier. Do not stick your fingers or hands in. Keep trap and carrier gates locked. **DO NOT OPEN TRAPS!** Pour dried cat food into trap from above or into carrier through the gate. You can pour water into a carrier through the gate using a funnel (plastic or paper). Make sure trap door is completely locked before you leave.
8. Before releasing cat next morning, look carefully to see if he or she is alert, clear-eyed, and shows no signs of illness. If healthy looking, release morning after surgery, barring bad weather or extreme temperatures. **Only release cats that are fully awake.** You may keep a female cat who was pregnant before surgery for an additional 24 hours. To keep a feral cat longer than that, however, creates increasing stress for the cat.
9. If you must keep cat longer than one night, provide food and water. Moist food is preferable because it is more easily digested. Feed small amounts of food at first.
10. **Release cat where trapped.** This is humane treatment for feral and stray cats under trap-neuter-return programs. Relocating cats is rarely successful and is not recommended because of reports of high mortality. Cats released elsewhere will not know where food, water, shelter or area predators are. How would you like for someone to drop you off 1 - 20 miles from where you live with no resources, especially after surgery when you're weak and hungry?
11. When releasing cat, point trap gate away from danger, such as a busy street. Remove cloth cover, open trap gate and back away. Stand back patiently and allow cat to leave at its own pace. Usually it will run away immediately. Provide fresh food and water. A cat may disappear but normally returns after calming down.