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Surgery After-Care Instructions for Feral Cats

- **Keep Warm** - place the trap/carrier in a warm and draft-free area.
- **Keep the trap/carrier covered with a blanket or towel** help keep them warm and to reduce stress from outside sights and sounds. If the trap/carrier is sitting on a cold surface (garage floor, etc), then also place a blanket UNDER the carrier.
- **Check the cat frequently** for normal signs of recovery after anesthesia. These may include shivering/shaking, panicked or over-anxious behaviors, attempts to escape, head bobbing, and/or dozing in sitting or crouched positions.
- **Do Not Release until the morning after surgery unless otherwise directed**
- **Warm Weather** - make sure there is ample ventilation. Keep out of direct sun. Keep in a cool dry place. Do not cover all surfaces of trap in extremely hot weather.

Food: Once the cat has recovered from the over-anxious stage and is resting quietly, you may offer food and water if you can access the trap/carrier safely and without risking escape or injury. Canned food works best, it contains at least 70% water therefore eliminating the need for water, and it is more palatable to recovering cats.

For kittens under 4 pounds in weight: Offer 1 tablespoon of canned food as soon as the kitten is awake. Offer additional food once the kitten is fully awake.

Normal Surgery Reactions:

- **Ear tips:** Following an ear tip, some bleeding is expected. If a gauze is attached to this cat's ear with a paper clip, do not attempt to remove this yourself. The cat will remove it on its own.
- **Males:** Expect slight bleeding from the scrotum for the first 24 hours. Larger tom-cats may have more significant bleeding but should not require treatment.
- **Females:** Many females develop a sterile suture reaction. This appears as a bump at the incision site DAYS after surgery. With the incision site closed, they do not require attention.

Abnormal Reactions:

- An incision that is open or one that is excessively swollen, is draining, or has excessive thick discharge (below tail in males, on belly for females)
- Slow recovery. The cat should be able to lie in a crouched position by 8 pm
- Difficulty breathing
- Excessive vomiting or NO appetite after 24-48 hours
- Opening of female surgery site

Please call and report any of these conditions to The NOAH Center, Spay & Neuter Clinic during normal business hours 9:00am – 5:00pm daily

Emergencies:

If your pet develops any of the following, seek immediate veterinary help.

- The incision is completely open (gaping) and/or tissue is protruding
- Feral cat has been waking up normally, and now is non-responsive (does not acknowledge your presence or respond to tapping the carrier/trap, etc.) When aroused, your feral cat should open eyes or lift head in response to stimulus)
- Anything more than a small amount of bleeding (more than a few drops) from the incision or vulva
- Excessive swelling of the face or excessive, continuous vomiting (can be an allergic reaction)
- Difficulty breathing and/or blue color to the tongue or gums

Please contact our reception desk during our regular business hours 9:00am to 5:00pm, 7 days a week. If after hours, please call the closest emergency clinic. If they ask you to bring the animal in, take the medical record with you.

Keep in mind

Your feral cat has just been through a major surgery. With any surgery requiring general anesthesia, complications can arise no matter how well the surgery was performed or how good the after care is. The Noah Center is committed to offering a high quality spay/neuter surgery service for our community. We employ highly skilled and experienced veterinary surgeons and licensed support staff. However, it is impossible to predict every possible complication. We are committed to helping our patients recover from their surgeries and will be happy to examine them in the days after surgery during our normal operating hours if you have concerns. If your feral cat requires emergency care from another veterinarian, all costs incurred will be at your own expense and responsibility.