



Feral Cat Program: Post-Surgical Recovery

Your feral cat needs some time to recover from the anesthetic and from the surgery itself. Please keep the cat confined overnight inside the trap and in a safe location, such as a screened-in porch, a basement, or a barn that is secure from other household animals and from predators. Keep the trap covered with a towel or blanket to keep the cat calm. Feral cats need all their strength and wits to survive outdoors! A cat may soil inside the trap, but that is unavoidable. We suggest placing the trap on an old sheet or piece of cardboard for easy clean up.

There is no follow up care needed. Female cats have internal sutures which will dissolve on their own, and externally glued. Male cats do not require internal sutures and are just externally glued. **NO SUTURE REMOVAL IS NEEDED.** All cats receive an injectable pain medication as well to aid in recovery.

Cats may have soft (canned) food around 7:00 PM. Make “meat ball” sized chunks of food and simply drop it into the trap. The soft food will also help keep the cat hydrated overnight. **Do not try to open the trap door.** If you can't safely feed the cat, then it's perfectly fine to withhold food until the next day. **Remember that feral cats can be very aggressive especially after the stress of having surgery.**

If you **do** feed the cat, start with a small amount of canned food. If the cat eats it without vomiting, you can give additional food. Some cats will not have any appetite the day of the surgery, or will not be able to hold down the food without vomiting.

You can release the cat outdoors about 24 hours after surgery. Once the cat has been released outdoors, you should return to your normal feeding & watering schedule.