

SPAY&STAY

Recovery Instructions for Ferals

Recovery

- Keep the cats warm, but not too hot.
- If the cats are friendly with each other, place the traps next to each other so they can see each other.
- Keep traps covered.
- Check the cats regularly to make sure they are recovering well.

Food and Water

- Place a Tablespoon of wet food in the trap only when the cat is completely alert and recovered from anesthesia. “Completely alert” refers to the cat being able to stand or sit up without wobbling or shaking anymore.
- If the cat tolerates the food, give the cat another tablespoon a few hours later.
- Ideally, water should be withheld until the morning after surgery. If you feel that the cat is dehydrated and really needs some water, offer a Tablespoon in a shallow dish once the cat is completely alert. Keep a close eye on him/her to ensure that he/she doesn't fall into the water or aspirate it into his/her lungs which can cause pneumonia.
- The morning after surgery, give the cat food and water normally.

Return to the Outdoors

If the cats are doing well:

- Male cats** can be released to their outside home **24 hours** after surgery.
- Female cats** can be released to their outside home **48 hours** after surgery.
- If a female cat was found to be nursing, you may need to release her 24 hours after surgery so she can feed her kittens. **During the winter months females will need to be recovered for 1-2 weeks indoors to allow some fuzz to grow back on their shaved bellies and prevent frostbite.**

If you have any questions during the recovery about how your cats are doing, please contact the veterinary clinic where the cats were sterilized. You are also welcome to leave us a message at 847-548-1980 to report on your cats. Thanks so much for all you do to help these homeless cats!