

## **KittiCo Cat Rescue Spay Neuter Clinic**

### **Post-Surgery Aftercare Instructions**

Emergency Pager # for 48 Hours after Surgery is 214-246-0235

(Dial pager, when hear beep, type your phone number in, type #, then hang up)

### **General Information**

- If your cat has an eartip, that is a helpful and visible signal, recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association and local Animal Service Departments as the universal sign a cat has been spayed or neutered. Eartipping is done while the cat is under anesthesia and helps save many lives.
- Our veterinarians provide spay and side-spay operations for female cats. The side-spay makes it easier to keep an eye on the cat's surgical site, and is especially favored for indoor/outdoor cats.
- All cats over 3 months of age accepted for surgery are vaccinated for rabies.
- All cats are monitored after surgery.
- Feral 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 approval 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 a "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; adults take longer than kittens.
- Please check incision daily for a week following surgery if have domesticated cat. A little pink-tinged seepage and swelling is normal; however, if redness, excessive cloudy drainage or liquid seepage occur, or large swelling appears, contact KittiCo within 48 hours after surgery, or your own veterinarian (although KittiCo will not pay for the services of other veterinarians).
- 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 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.

**If a cat has significant symptoms within 48 hours after surgery, please contact KittiCo pager # at 214-246-0235 or your own veterinarian (although KittiCo will not pay for the services of other veterinarians). The KittiCo return phone call will have the caller ID "BLOCKED". This is an emergency contact provided for the immediate post-operative 48 hour period only. KittiCo does not accept responsibility for providing for, or paying for, any veterinary care if you go to another vet, nor pay costs incurred at any other veterinary clinic.**

**KittiCo Cat Rescue Spay Neuter Clinic**  
**Post-Surgery Aftercare Instructions for Feral and Stray Cats**  
Emergency Pager # for 48 Hours after Surgery is 214-246-0235  
(Dial pager, when hear beep, type your phone number in, type #, then hang up)

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 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. Make sure trap is carefully balanced if elevated so it won't topple over.
3. Use good judgment in all your decisions and actions around the cat.
4. 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.
5. **Do not stick your fingers through bars of trap or try to touch or handle cats.** Cats – even when apparently anesthetized – may react quickly and instinctively.
6. 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.**
7. Immediately after surgery, feed kittens up to six months old 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 choke or vomit if he eats too soon after anesthesia. 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, not too much food or water after surgery.
8. 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.
9. 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.**
10. Keeping a cat longer than one night increases the cat's stress and is not recommended.
11. **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. Cats are instinct-driven to try to return to their habitat and to do that, they will be forced to travel through territory where they won't know where food, water, shelter or area predators are. This creates much greater risk that they will be injured or die. 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?
12. 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.