
 <p>People for Animals Spay / Neuter Clinic & Rescue</p> <p>A non-profit Animal Welfare Organization & Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic</p>	<h2>POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS (Outside Cats)</h2>	
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- **After surgery, allow the cat to recover overnight in the same covered trap.** Keep the cats indoors in their covered traps and make sure they are dry, in a temperature-controlled environment, and away from loud noises or dangers such as toxic fumes, other animals, or people. When the cats are recovering from anesthesia they are unable to regulate their body temperature. It is important that the recovery location is temperature-controlled to keep the cats from getting too hot or too cold. A basement or bathroom will usually do the trick.
- **Put your safety first.** Keep the traps covered to reduce the cats' stress. Never open the trap doors or allow the cats out of the trap. Do not stick your fingers through the bars or attempt to handle the cats.
- **Monitor the cats.** Check the cats often for their progress; keep an eye out for bleeding, infection, illness, and lack of appetite. If a cat is vomiting, bleeding, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up, get veterinary assistance immediately. All cats will have a small, green tattoo on the abdomen.
- **Feed and provide the cats with water after they regain consciousness.** Cats may be fed once they are fully alert. Kittens can be fed shortly after waking from anesthesia. When feeding the cats, lift the back of the trap very slowly and allow only a small gap – one-half to one inch at most – to open. Slide a plastic lid with a little bit of food on it through the gap without putting your hand inside the trap. You may want to purchase or borrow a device called an “isolator” or “trap divider” for this purpose. An isolator can be very helpful, especially if you have a trap that does not have a back door. Always relock the trap door. (If you don't have an isolator device to keep the cat in the back of the trap, and you feel you cannot even slide a plastic lid in without the cat trying to escape, then just drop food into the trap through the grate. You can also drop a few ice cubes through the grate with a paper plate under the trap to catch them as they melt to provide water.)
- **Hold cats until they recover.** Cats usually need to be held for 24 to 48 hours after surgery, depending on recovery speed. Male cats can be returned to the

trapping site 24 hours following surgery, as long as they are fully awake and do not require further medical attention. We recommend females have 48 hours of recovery depending on their specific circumstances. You should return nursing mothers as soon as possible, once they completely regain consciousness so they can get back to their kittens. Make sure all cats are fully conscious, clear-eyed, and alert before release.