Feral Cat Post-Operative Care Instructions

WAG recommends keeping feral cats for at least 24 hours (ideally 3-4 days) after surgery. When they are ready to be released, we recommend returning them to the location site they were trapped. That is their home and for appropriate recovery and less stress, this is the best option for them.

Healthy ferals can remain in the trap they came in up to 24 hours only. If the cat has a medical problem that was identified at the time of spay/neuter and it is recommended by the veterinarian to be kept for an extended period, he or she must be transferred from the trap into appropriate longer-term housing such as a large dog kennel with a smaller cat carrier for them to have a place to hide. The extended time assists to ensure their safety and allows their pain medications to subside before being released.

**Signs of Extreme stress:**

* Repeated attempts to escape the trap.
* Not eating
* Not drinking

If these signs occur, please release the cat after 24 hours to prevent further health concerns.

**Feeding after surgery:**

Please offer food and water if possible. If you cannot open the trap safely, you can place wet food on a paper plate, then place the trap on top of the plate to get the food inside the trap.

**E-collars:**

Not provided for ferals as this could be life-threatening if they get caught on objects outside.

**Post Surgical Medications:**

**FEMALES:** Receive a long-acting pain medication that lasts 3-4 days. This medication can have side effects including restlessness, agitation, and dilated pupils. Typically, these side effects will subside in about 24 hours. They also receive an injection of an anti-inflammatory that lasts for 24 hours.

**MALES:** Receive an oral medication that lasts 8-12 hours and an injection of an anti-inflammatory that lasts for 24 hours.

**Rechecks:**

**Email** [**appointments@wagwag.org**](mailto:appointments@wagwag.org) **for faster response time and add “URGENT” in the subject line or call 541-345-3566. Voicemails will be checked daily Monday – Thursday and once on Friday & Saturday at 10:30 am. Voicemails left after 10:30 am on Saturday will be returned on Monday during clinic hours. Emails are checked daily. Please provide pictures of the incision if you see a concern with the incision.**

Willamette Animal Guild (WAG) will treat post-operative complications at our clinic, at minimal cost, that result directly from surgery. Your full-service veterinarian must address illnesses or injuries that are not a direct result of a spay or neuter surgery. WAG will not be held liable for complications resulting from failure to follow WAG’s after-care instructions or for contagious diseases for which the animal was not previously vaccinated.