



Pre-Surgery Instructions

For feral and stray cats

Make Appointment:

VCAS will be accepting TNR Spay/Neuter surgeries by **appointment only**.

To schedule a Spay/Neuter surgery for a feral cat, please visit www.vcas.us/TNRsurgery and use our online scheduling system. If you're having difficulty please call (805)388-4275.

Trapping and Holding Cats

- ◇ **Traps only.** Each cat must arrive in a humane live trap (covered with a towel to calm the animal). Pet carriers are NOT permitted (cardboard, plastic, or cloth). One cat per trap.
- ◇ **Choose a holding area.** Choose a place where the cat will be safe in its trap overnight. This should be a warm, dry, well-ventilated area.
- ◇ **Safety first.** Follow the humane trapping instructions provided to you. Never attempt to handle a feral cat, and keep children and pets away from traps.
- ◇ **Keep the cat calm and covered.** Covering the trap with a towel will allow the cat to remain quiet and comfortable.
- ◇ **Food and water.** Water should be made available at all times while cats are contained. Kittens younger than 4 months of age may be fed one teaspoon of wet food at 6:00am on the morning of surgery. Cats older than 4 months of age must fast for 4 hours before surgery.
- ◇ **Monitor.** Check on the cats throughout the night and in the morning.

Surgery Day

- ◇ **Transport safely.** Never transport cats in an open truck bed or in a closed, unventilated car trunk.
- ◇ **Arrive on time.** Check in at the front office with a staff member. Each cat must have a reservation. Be prepared to provide you full name, address, and phone number, and address where the cat was trapped.
- ◇ **No pets.** Pets are not permitted. Cats wearing collars will be rejected for surgery.
- ◇ **Be available during the day.** Answer phone calls during the day in the event of an emergency.
- ◇ **Please note.** There is always a risk involved when an animal undergoes anesthesia. Caretakers are required to sign a release which hold Ventura County Animal Services, its staff, and its facilities harmless should a cat experience complications or death to surgery. Any cat deemed to have a serious, untreatable medical condition that would make it inhumane to release it back to its colony, may be humanely euthanized at the discretion of the veterinarian on duty. All pregnancies will be humanely terminated.





Post Surgery Instructions

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THANK YOU for helping to reduce the overpopulation of feral and stray cats in your community!

After Surgery

- ◇ **Return to the shelter on time to pick up.** Check in with the front counter staff.
- ◇ **Understand the post-surgery instructions.** A staff member will inform you of any special instructions before you leave the facility. We will not be responsible for complications arising from the use of medications obtained elsewhere.
- ◇ **Keep cats safe and warm.** Cats should be housed in a comfortable, temperature-regulated environment. Anesthesia lowers a cat's body temperature. Make sure cats are not too hot or too cold. Elevate traps with wood blocks and place newspaper on the ground underneath to catch falling waste.
- ◇ **Monitor cats after surgery.** Check on cats throughout the night and before release. Check the surgical site, if possible, and watch for steady breathing. In the rare occurrence of an adverse reaction, call (805)388-4341.
- ◇ **Food and water.** Wait until cats are fully awake before offering food or water. Open trap door just enough to slide in tuna-sized cans of food and water. Wet food is preferable.
- ◇ **Sutures do not require removal.** Sutures are absorbable and do not need to be removed.
- ◇ **Release cats the morning after surgery.** Keeping them longer than one night can result in unnecessary stress. Lactating females should be released the night of surgery so they can return to and nurse their kittens as soon as possible. A staff member will inform you if your cat is lactating. Always release cats in the area where they were caught. Point the front of the trap away from you and so that it opens to an area as free of obstructions as possible, not facing a busy street.
- ◇ **Safety first.** Be cautious when handling traps. Never attempt to handle a feral cat. Keep children and pets away from traps. If you are bitten, seek immediate medical attention and quarantine the cat.

What to Expect:

Normal Recovery

- ◇ Lethargy
- ◇ Unsteadiness

Abnormal Recovery

- ◇ Vomiting
- ◇ Continued bleeding or discharge from the surgery site.
- ◇ Shivering the next morning

If any abnormal symptoms occur the morning after surgery, **do not** release the cat.

Call (805)388-4341, immediately.