

## Non Ear Tip Post-Op Instructions:

### Keep your cat in its carrier until it can move around normally and is fully aware

Cats recovering from anesthesia go through a period of excitement and disorientation. During this period, they can be a danger to themselves, to you, and to their surroundings if not confined to a trap/carrier. The cats' coordination is hindered by anesthesia, so he/she won't be able to jump or climb normally until the anesthesia fully wears off. After the period of excitement and disorientation is over, we recommend cats recover overnight in a dimly lit, quiet room with minimal gentle handling.

### Keep the cat in a warm, dry, draft-free sheltered area that you can check on frequently

Cats cannot adequately control their body temperature until they have fully recovered from anesthesia. For this reason and others, cats recovering from anesthesia should be kept in a warm (>75 degree), draft free environment. Cats that become hypothermic (dangerously low body temperature) are in danger of re-anesthesia, and cardiac arrest.

### Provide small amounts of food and fresh water when your pet is fully aware

The anesthetic drugs and surgical procedure may make your pet nauseous. Feed a small meal, about ¼ to ½ of a normal meal, the night he/she goes home. Feed your regular brand of food and be certain fresh drinking water is always available once your cat is awake (do not allow water to spill on your cats bedding.)

### Pain medication

Your cat was given a long acting injection of pain medication (meloxicam) following surgery. Do not give your animal any pain medication without first speaking with your veterinarian.

### Restrict activity for the next 7-10 days

Cats need restricted activity after surgery to allow their bodies to heal. It is important to keep pets indoors after surgery to prevent contamination of the incision and prevent too much activity. Excessive activity can result in serious surgical complications like opening of the incision and hemorrhage (bleeding). Cats may need to be confined to a small room to keep them from jumping, running, and climbing. You should not bathe your pet for 10 days (until the incision has healed completely) as bathing can wash dirt and bacteria into the incision.

### Monitor your pet after surgery

It is very important to monitor your pet after surgery. Although most cats will recover without incident, some will experience complications. If you notice anything unusual, including failure to stay awake, difficulty breathing, slow recovery (cats should be fully recovered by 8pm), excessive bleeding from the incision (below the tail for males, on the abdomen for females), decreased appetite, oozing from the incision, excessive or fluid-filled swelling around the incision, or any other concerning abnormalities, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. Prevent your pet from licking or scratching at the incision. This may require an Elizabethan collar.

Normal surgery reactions:

- There may be a small, hard, non-painful lump under the incision where the inner stitches are healing. This is a normal reaction to the absorbable suture material
- Minor bleeding from the scrotum of male cats is expected for 1-2 days after surgery

### Please call your vet if problems arise after surgery

If you are concerned about your pet's well being, please seek veterinary attention first. Contact the closest emergency clinic and take the cat's FCSNP paperwork from the day of your surgery with you. Then, call FCSNP at 425-673-2287 to notify us that there has been a problem. It is important for the cat's health and our records/protocol that we learn of any problems. As a non-profit spay/neuter clinic, we provide spay/neuter and vaccination services only. **FCSNP cannot render nor assist financially with other veterinary services.**