



6401 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, WA 98408
253.627.7729
www.nwspayneuter.org

Free-Roaming Cat Take-Home Discharge Instructions

Thank you! By bringing free-roamers to our center for sterilization, you have helped lessen the burden of cat overpopulation.

The cat(s) is given anesthetic, and the combination of this and surgery is a stressful experience for them. To minimize this stress, make sure to follow these discharge instructions fully.

ESSENTIAL CARE:

- Staff will inform you of any special circumstances or instructions when you are checked out.
- Please keep cat(s) in a temperature-controlled, draft-free environment for a minimum of 24 hours after pick-up. After anesthesia the cats are unable to control their body temperature, and should not run or jump. Confinement to a small room, basement, shed, or garage is ideal (during summer months, be sure the room is not too hot or stuffy). Nursing females are an exception, and should be released within 24 hours of trapping. They will still be able to nurse kittens after surgery.
- Keep traps or carriers covered with a sheet, large towel, or light blanket at all times to reduce fear and stress. Put newspaper under traps to keep cat(s) dry.
- Offer food and water only once you are home in a confined area. Cats may try and escape otherwise. Do not be alarmed if they won't eat for a day or so, until they calm down.
- For your safety, do not attempt to touch the cat. Stitches do not need to be removed.
- **Abnormal signs needing attention by veterinary staff during recovery include: discharge coming from incision (below the tail for males, on belly for females), abnormal smells, biting/chewing at incision, and continued/worsening lethargy (not feeling well) or lack of appetite after 24 hours.**
- Females may develop a bump at the incision site after surgery. If the bump is the same color as the rest of their skin and there are not any "abnormal signs" described above, this is normal.
- After the recovery period, return the cat(s) to *where they came from originally*.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE RECOVERY OF THE CAT(S):

Please call **Northwest Spay & Neuter Center: (253) 627-7729**. Our staff can often address questions, and can refer you to appropriate veterinary care if needed. If a cat has a situation that you feel cannot wait for assistance from our staff, please call your local veterinary clinic. *Any fees for care at another veterinary clinic are the responsibility of cat caregivers, not Northwest Spay & Neuter Center.*

PLEASE TURN OVER >>>>>

IF YOU'RE ABLE, DO THE FOLLOWING IN ADDITION TO 'ESSENTIAL CARE':


- Please keep cat(s) in a temperature-controlled, draft-free environment for up to seven days for males, and up to ten days for females. Nursing females are an exception, and should be released within 24 hours of trapping. They will still be able to nurse kittens after surgery.
- Visually inspect the incision twice a day for signs of discharge, redness, swelling or irritation.
- Consider making a shelter for the cat(s) if you are unable to provide a room for the recovery period. They will continue to benefit from the shelter after recovery, when weather is wet and cold!

Resources for Feral Cats and their Caretakers:

- **Alley Cat Allies:** www.alleycat.org
 - Education and information about feral cats
 - National group dedicated to improving lives of all cats
- **Community Cat Coalition:** www.communitycatcoalitionwa.org
 - Offer classes and resources for trappers and caretakers
 - Available to anyone throughout the state
- **Community Cat Program:**
 - Pierce County and Federal Way only
 - Provides trapping and relocation assistance as available
 - Provides food to caretakers when available
 - Call 253-284-5812 for more information

HOW TO MAKE A SHELTER FOR OUTDOOR CATS:

Plastic Tote Shelter – A shelter anybody can make; suitable for one to two cats.



Start with a 30 gallon tote for one to two cats

Cut 5 1/2" diameter hole in tote

Insert Styrofoam cooler and cut hole in Styrofoam to match tote

Add straw

Add Styrofoam lid

Add tote lid—finished!

After the cats have begun using the tote shelter, you might want to add a door flap made of heavy plastic or heavy vinyl for further wind/weather protection.

If you need to house more cats, just purchase a larger plastic tote.

A smaller plastic tote can be substituted for the styrafoam.