



## WOODS HUMANE SOCIETY – SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

875 Oklahoma Ave, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 | 805.540.2692 | [sif@woodshumane.org](mailto:sif@woodshumane.org)  
2300 Ramona Rd, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.464.5034 | [ncclinic@woodshumane.org](mailto:ncclinic@woodshumane.org)

### POST-OP CARE INSTRUCTIONS – Dogs & Cats

#### Limit activity for at least 7–14 days

Your pet may still be feeling the effects of anesthesia and may be sleepy, wobbly, disoriented and/or cold (chills). No running, jumping, playing, swimming, or other strenuous activity. Dogs should only walk on a leash. Cats should refrain from climbing cat trees or playing with toys. Multiple pet households should keep pets separated during recovery.

#### Green tattoo = fixed/altered

Both males and females have a small green tattoo to indicate that they have been altered. This is separate from the surgical incision.

#### Feed your pet their regular diet

Animals under 4 months old should be fed as normal once you get home. Animals over 4 months old should be fed **half** of their normal amount of food and small bowls of water after 5 pm tonight. Return to normal amounts of food and water starting tomorrow morning. Anesthesia can sometimes cause nausea and vomiting. If vomiting occurs, smaller frequent meals and water offerings are recommended for 24 hours. If vomiting continues after 24 hours, contact your regular veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic, if after hours.

#### The incision needs to stay clean & dry for 10–14 days

How your pet's incision looks now is considered normal. Redness, swelling and discharge should be minimal and there are no sutures to remove. DO NOT apply any ointments or hydrogen peroxide to the incision. No bathing or swimming during recovery. Do not allow your pet to lick or chew the incision. Check the incision site daily to make sure there are no major changes or signs of infection. We recommend an e-collar for all dogs. Keep the e-collar on at all times for the next 10 days. Your pet will be able to eat, drink, and sleep with the e-collar on. Your pet will not like wearing it. If your pet struggles at first with the e-collar, DO NOT PANIC. Leave the collar on to give them a chance to adjust to it.

#### Pain Control

Your pet received pain medication during surgery that lasts about 12-24 hours. Some discomfort within 24 hours is normal. Vocalizing and shaking can be caused by anesthesia. If additional sedatives and/or pain medications were sent home, please start the next morning and follow instructions exactly as printed on the label.

#### Recheck Exams

Woods Humane Society is limited in what we may provide in terms of post-surgical care to patients that have undergone sterilization. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's surgery or incision within 14 days of the surgery, please contact us. We may schedule you for a recheck appointment or advise you to seek care with your regular veterinarian. In the **rare case** your veterinarian determines surgical intervention is needed to address an issue with your pet's initial surgery, please contact the Woods location your pet had surgery at immediately. Woods Humane Society will perform the surgical correction at our facility at no charge. However, under no circumstances can Woods Humane Society reimburse individuals or veterinarians for any cost incurred for the treatment of the patient once it has been released.

24-HR EMERGENCY	Atascadero Pet Center and Emergency Clinic	Cerro Alto Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Hospital	PETS Hospital
	9575 El Camino Real Atascadero, CA 93422 805-466-3880	2640 Broad St. San Luis Obispo, CA 93404 805-457-8724	4854 S. Bradley Rd. #109 Orcutt, CA 93455 805-250-5600



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# TNR POST-OP CARE INSTRUCTIONS – Community Cats

### Recovery

It is best to keep them in the trap with the back door locked. The cat should be confined by itself in a warm, dimly lit room free from distractions and noises. An enclosed barn/garage/shed is sufficient. Minimal handling of the cat is best. Keep the trap covered with a towel or light blanket.

Keep interactions to a minimum. Monitor for bleeding, facial swelling, labored breathing or inability to stand/move. If you observe this, please take the cat (in the trap) to an emergency veterinarian. All the sutures used are dissolvable, so no suture removal is required.

### Ear Tip = fixed/altered

This cat received a permanent ear tip indicating it has been sterilized. Ear tipping requires no aftercare.

### Pain Control

All cats receive a pain medication after surgery that will last approximately 8-12 hours. Some discomfort within 24 hours is normal. Vocalizing and shaking can be caused by anesthesia.

### Feeding

The evening after surgery, you can place a small amount of wet food in the trap. **Do not attempt to open the trap/crate unless you can do so safely and without releasing the cat.** The cat may still be nauseous from the anesthesia and may not eat right away. If you are not able to safely open the trap/crate, you can try dropping dry food through the wire of the trap/crate.

### Release

Your cat may be released 12-24 hours after surgery. Ensure that they are bright-eyed and alert. Make sure to release the cat at the same site where you trapped them. Place the trap with one end uncovered and facing in the direction you want them to travel. Let them orient and get used to their surroundings for a few minutes. Then open one end of the trap. It may still take a few minutes for the cat to exit the trap.

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