



DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS for Feral/ Free Roaming Cats

Feral Cat FOCUS Inc., Operation PETS and the Maddie's Spay Neuter Project, have collaborated to provide services for Feral and Free Roaming cats in our community. Feral Cat FOCUS has secured surgical dates and assisted with this funding. Operation PETS the Spay/Neuter Clinic of WNY Inc. has provided the actual surgical procedures.

- Your cat has had a surgical procedure today.
- All cats, Male or Female were anesthetized.
- Female cats have an incision on their abdomen. The inside has been sutured, the outside has been glued. All female cats have a green-blue tattoo at the incision site.
- Male cats testicles are removed. Some remaining skin of the sack will be present.
- All feral/free roaming cats have had their left ear tip.
- All cats have several layers of newspapers, and light colored cloth in the bottom of the trap. This will help us and you, the caregiver, see if the cat is bleeding. Some blood, spotting, is possible. However, an excess of blood is not good. **Call Operation PETS if your cat is bleeding excessively. 716-783-8998**
- All cats **MUST** stay in their trap for tonight, they are groggy, and will be very disorientated. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- All cats must be kept covered and in a warm, safe place until released.
- When you get the cat home keep the cat up off cement floors. This can be accomplished by placing traps on wood planks or tables, with newspapers and plastic to protect floors and keep cats from getting cold.
- We have fed all the cats at least once; most cats have chosen to eat. The last cats to have surgery may not have wanted to eat, but all have been given food.
- Tonight, the cat should be offered more food by dropping canned food down through the bars to the cat, you should not open the trap doors for any reason tonight. Remember continue to drop food down to the cat regularly during this confinement period.
- Cats will defecate, so do not worry they will move or clean themselves.
- If you have been able to touch the cat in the past do not try it tonight. The cat is disorientated.
- Keep the cat covered and quiet at all times. Do not let children or other animals approach the trap, allow the cat to rest and keep warm.
- Male cats can be released 12-24 hours after surgery. Female cats can be released 24-48 hours after surgery.
- Cats should always be released where you have trapped or found them. Cats should be released away from any hazards, traffic or congestion, and always at dawn or dusk.
- **DO NOT** relocate a feral/free roaming cat unless you have thoroughly talked to a Feral Cat FOCUS Volunteer. Cats do not adapt easily to a change in environment, and get confused, and scared.

FERAL FREE-ROAMING WINTER POLICIES

From November 10th -March 15th

- All caregivers of feral/free roaming cats coming into Operation PETS for sterilization must agree to **our winter cold weather policies**. *The dates may change if the winter begins early and ends later*
- After the first 24-48 hours you must be able to keep the cat confined for the next 10- 14 days. You can use a large "dog" cage. See step by step on reverse page.
- These cats can also be cared for out of a trap or cage, set free to roam in a sunroom, enclosed porch, or a garage, provided the temperature is approximately 60 degrees. These animals must be kept warm and out of the winter elements after surgery.
- If the animals are not being held at their colony site, the cats must be kept in a cage for easy return. With a carrier in the cage. See step by step on reverse page.

If the cat does not seem perky or its head is drooping, or generally not the same cat he or she was before surgery, **CALL Operation PETS (716-783-8998)** and get the cat back to the clinic to be checked. Remember Operation PETS is on staff Monday-Thursday. **Do Not Wait. To make more appointments call Feral Cat FOCUS Inc. 1-888-902-9717.**

Feral Cat FOCUS

Operation PETS The Spay/Neuter Clinic of WNY. Inc.

P.O. Box 404 East Aurora, NY 14052-0404

1-888-902-9717 (toll free)

3443 South Park, Blasdell, NY 14219

716-783-8998

Fostering a Feral Cat Safely

Fostering a feral cat safely means not letting him or her go in your bathroom and hoping somehow you'll get him in a carrier later. Or releasing him into your bedroom then trying to figure out how you'll ever get him out from under your bed. Remember that your environment is totally unfamiliar to a feral cat and you are perceived as a threat, especially in this strange new territory. You have to give the cat a space where he feels safe and where he can either learn about his new surroundings, if he's interested in doing so, or quietly retreat. That's what the Feral Cat Setup allows you to do. In the rare cases where someone has a good reason for trying to adopt a feral cat, the chances of a successful transition to indoor life are greatly increased by use of the Setup for at least two or three weeks until the cat is visually comfortable, at which time the cage door can be left open for the cat to come and go as he pleases.

1. Materials needed: Cage, at least 42" x 24" x 20"

- Small cat carrier (the smallest)
- Small litter pan (the smallest - can use aluminum baking pan)
- Yardstick
- Arm extender
- Cotton sheet
- Small towel
- Newspaper
- Food and water dishes
- Twist tie

2. The setup (without the cat):

Line the bottom of the cage with newspaper. Place the carrier in one back corner of the cage and then put the litter pan next to it in the other back corner. Make sure the carrier door, when it's open, rests against the side of the cage and doesn't swing open into the middle. Put food dish and water dish inside.

3. Putting the cat inside:

- a) Transfer the cat into the carrier from a trap with a rear door. Have the towel already in the carrier.
- b) Place the carrier (containing the cat) inside the cage, in the back corner.
- c) Close and lock the cage door.
- d) Slide the yardstick through the bars of the cage so that it securely bars the carrier door from opening.
- e) Open the cage door, but always keep the door between your body and the interior of the cage. This way you can shut it quickly if you need to.
- f) Reach in and unlock the carrier door.
- g) Close the cage door.
- h) Remove the yardstick, then use it to move the carrier door against the side of the cage.
- i) Secure the carrier door open by using the twist tie to tie it to the side of the cage.
- j) Cover the cage with the cotton sheet to calm the cat.



The Feral Cat Setup

4. Feeding and cleaning:

The cat's natural tendency will be to run into the carrier whenever you approach. If he gets bold, you might have to try removing the cotton cover from the cage, making a loud sound or gently poking him with the yardstick. Once he's in the carrier, you untie the carrier door from the side of the cage, use the yardstick to close the carrier door and then bar the carrier door shut with the yardstick. You can then open the cage door and do what you have to. Also, you can lock the carrier door and remove the carrier and cat while you clean.

5. Really uncooperative cat:

If the cat just won't go in the carrier, he's gotten pretty comfortable and is unlikely to try to bolt out of the cage. In this case, use the arm extender to reach in and pull out the litter pan, food dish, etc. BUT REMEMBER: keep the cage door in front of you at all times so you can close it quickly, and keep an eye on him in case he does try to bolt.