

Vetting Aftercare

Cats might still be groggy when you pick them up. Anesthesia makes them feel cool, so keep them in a warm, protected, and quiet place.

Monitor cats periodically. Check surgical site and check for steady breathing. There is always some chance that your cat may have an adverse reaction to any part of vetting/surgery, on the rare occasion this happens, contact Dr. Mecenas at 240-626-1898 after hours or 301-898-7276 during office hours. You may want to contact an emergency veterinarian in your area (see "Veterinarian Emergency Services" in the yellow pages). Please leave a message about the incident with Tip Me Frederick as well.

Wait until cats are **completely** awake before offering food or water, to avoid choking or drowning. Food can be offered in the evening after surgery and/or the next morning; if the cats are too scared to eat, consider early release. Be careful when feeding, as the cat may try to escape or attack you! Open trap door just enough to slide in a small bowl of canned cat food mixed with water.

If no special treatment is required, males can be released 12-24 hours after surgery, females 24-48 hours after surgery (stitches do not need removal). The exception is for females with nursing kittens — they should be released 10 hours after pick-up, or when fully awake.

When releasing the cats, take back to the trapping site. Make sure there is food and water available. Slide open the trap door, tilt forward and step away from the trap; allowing the cat to exit on their own. Do not be surprised if the cat hides for the next couple of days. They will be taking it easy after surgery and may be wary of activity. They will still come to eat, so make sure you maintain your feeding schedule. You will see them again when they feel better.