

Overnight Care:

- Columbus Humane recommends confining the cat overnight in the trap in which he/she was placed after surgery. The cat should be monitored for bleeding, difficulty breathing, lethargy/dullness, vomiting or loss of appetite. Keep in mind that not all community cats will eat overnight due to stress.
- Place the trap in a quiet, well-ventilated, and temperature-controlled area. Keep the trap covered with a sheet or light blanket during the recovery period. Be sure not to use a heavy blanket since this may cause the cat to overheat. Do not handle the cat or put your fingers in the trap.
- When feeding the cat in the trap, place canned food on a plastic lid with a little water around it. Keep in mind that not all community cats will eat overnight due to stress. Be careful when opening the trap so the cat does not escape. If using a trap with a back door, open the sliding door a crack and slide the food and water in. You can also pour food and water through the wire cage if there are already bowls inside the trap.
- Check in on the cat periodically. If it is bleeding, vomiting, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up, call Columbus Humane immediately (614)777-7387 ext. 210. If it is outside of Columbus Humane's hours of operation, please contact OSU Veterinary Medical Center. Please note that Columbus Humane will not cover the cost associated with the visit.

OSU Veterinary Medical Center
(614) 292-3551
601 Vernon L. Tharp Street
Columbus, OH 43210

Pick-Up and Post-Operative Instructions:

- The cat does not need to return to Columbus Humane for suture removal because dissolvable sutures were used. Male cats do not have any sutures in most cases.
- Make sure to release the cat at the same site he was trapped, during a time when there is little traffic. Place the trap with one end uncovered and facing toward the direction he should travel and let him orient for a few minutes. Unlock the back trap door and remove the door. Some cats will come out quickly, and others will take a bit longer. Once the cat is out of the trap, put the door back on.
- Provide fresh food, water and shelter (especially important in winter months). The cat may disappear for a few hours or days, but he will return once he has calmed down.
- If the trap was borrowed from Columbus Humane, return the trap through the Animal Support Center. Staff will disinfect the trap and return your deposit.