Heaven Can Wait animal society

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE COMMUNITY CAT IS TRAPPED?

HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A CAT IS TRAPPED ON YOUR BEHALF AND IS TRANSPORTED TO OUR CLINIC FOR SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES AND VACCINES

STEP 1: ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

Community cats are free-roaming, homeless, unowned, feral or stray cats. Once trapped and brought to our clinic in a humane trap, the cat is checked in using the information from your caretaker waiver.

STEP 2: SEDATION & ANESTHESIA

To keep the cat calm and safe, they are sedated and placed under anesthesia for their spay/neuter procedure. This means they are fully asleep and do not feel pain during surgery. While rare, there is always some risk when any animal is placed under anesthesia.

STEP 3: MICROCHIP SCAN

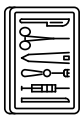
Every cat is scanned for a microchip. If a chip is found, we attempt to contact the registered owner. In some cases, a 3-day hold may be started to allow time for potential reunification.

STEP 4: HEALTH EXAM

Before surgery, a licensed veterinary professional checks to ensure the cat is in good health.

If the cat is in very poor condition, the veterinarian may recommend humane euthanasia to prevent suffering. Euthanasia is a decision made only when it's in the cat's best interest, when recovery is not possible and living would mean ongoing suffering. In these cases, the cat is gently and painlessly helped to pass away using medication. This process is peaceful and ensures the animal does not suffer further.

If we cannot reach you in time for a medical decision, our veterinarian will proceed with what is in the best interest of the animal.



STEP 5: SURGERY & VACCINES

If the cat is deemed healthy: They will be spayed or neutered, will receive their vaccines, and will be right ear tipped to signify the cat as been altered.

If a female cat is found to be pregnant at the time of surgery, the pregnancy will be terminated as part of the spay procedure. We understand this can be a sensitive topic, and we want to explain why it is part of our process. There are far more cats than available homes, and community cats often live in difficult conditions outdoors. Sadly, many kittens born outside do not survive.

STEP 6: RECOVERY

After surgery, cats need time to rest: Male cats can usually be released after 24 hours and Female cats can usually be released after 48 hours.

If more time is needed, we'll let the trapper know and they will communicate this to you. Caretakers are responsible for following aftercare instructions, which may include keeping and feeding the cat in a temperature-controlled environment until release.

Important Information:
While we take every precaution, surgery can carry risks, even in healthy-appearing cats. Community cats often have unknown medical histories and may carry or be exposed to illness.

If you have pets at home, keep the recovering cat separate and follow basic hygiene to protect all animals in your care.

STEP 7: RELEASE

After recovery, you will need to do the last step in the process, release. The cat must go back to the location listed on the waiver form to return to their familiar environment.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REACH OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY CAT COORDINATOR AT 702-622-9176

SCAN HERE

THANK YOU FOR HELPING CARE FOR COMMUNITY CATS!

This handout is intended to provide supplemental information and does not replace the signed caretaker waiver