

Feline Neuter (Castration)

Mermaid SANDS | Post-Operative Instructions — Community / TNR Cat

This cat underwent a neuter procedure today under general anesthesia. The incision is small and was left to heal normally. There are no sutures to remove.

Overnight Recovery

- **Keep confined** in the trap or a secure carrier overnight.
- **Keep in a quiet**, temperature-controlled area.
- **Do not open trap doors.**
- **Minimize disturbance.**

Release Timing

Release the following day once the cat is fully awake, alert, and standing and coordinated.

Important: No E-Collar

- Community cats should NOT be released with an e-collar.
- E-collars create choking and entrapment risk outdoors and interfere with escape from predators.

Increased Risk Considerations

Because community cats cannot be confined long-term, prevented from grooming or climbing, or protected from environmental contamination, there is heightened risk of incision contamination, scrotal swelling from activity, and delayed healing. Despite these risks, complications remain uncommon in routine neuter procedures.

A small amount of straw-colored to red-tinged discharge at the incision site can be normal, similar to a scab. If cleaning is needed, use a clean cloth with warm tap water. Do not use hydrogen peroxide — it can delay healing.

Seek immediate evaluation before release if you observe:

- Collapse, pale gums, or severe lethargy
- Active bleeding or excessive scrotal swelling
- Unresponsiveness

Follow-Up & When to Seek Care

For urgent or emergency concerns: Veterinary Medical Center of Indian River County — 1833 US-1, Vero Beach, FL 32960 — (772) 794-5800. If unavailable, proceed to your nearest emergency veterinary hospital.

Thank you for supporting responsible community cat population management.

Mermaid SANDS Team

Mermaid SANDS
6596 Old Dixie Hwy, Vero Beach, FL | mermaidsands.org | By appointment only