

Feline Spay (Ovariohysterectomy)

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

This cat underwent a spay procedure today under general anesthesia. The incision was closed in three layers using absorbable sutures, including a final layer inside the skin. There are no sutures to remove.

Overnight Recovery

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

Release Timing

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

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, swelling from activity, and delayed healing. Despite these risks, complications remain uncommon with small incisions and absorbable closure.

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 rapid abdominal 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 helping manage community cat populations responsibly.

Mermaid SANDS Team

Mermaid SANDS

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