

1. We keep cats overnight for one night. Male cats can be released back into the colony on the same day that we release the cat to you. However, we recommend, if possible, keeping a female cat for one additional day for a total of 48 hours (one night at AlterClinic, plus one additional night). Certain circumstances may dictate that a female needs to be retained for a longer period, as directed by your veterinarian.
2. If you are keeping the cat(s) overnight, keep them in the trap in which they were placed after surgery. The cat(s) must be kept indoors in a temperature-controlled area. They should be monitored for bleeding, difficulty breathing, lethargy or dullness, and/or vomiting or loss of appetite, although not all community cats will eat overnight, due to stress. Place the trap in a quiet, well-ventilated, and temperature- controlled area.
3. Keep the trap covered with a sheet or light blanket during the recovery period (but not too heavy; you don't want the cat to get too hot!). Do not handle the cat or put your fingers in the trap. Community cats are not vicious, but they are scared of people, strange noises, and activity.
4. When feeding the cat(s), place canned food on a plastic lid with a little water around it. The cat may not eat. Be careful when opening the trap so that the cat does not escape. Keep hands out of the trap. If you have a double- door trap, open the sliding back 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.
5. Check in on the cat periodically. If it is bleeding, vomiting, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up, please call 234-804-3064 immediately during business hours. **After 4 pm you may decide to take the animal the closest emergency veterinary hospital.** Please note that we may not cover the cost associated with the visit.
6. The cat does not need to return to AlterClinic Animal Care for suture removal, because dissolvable sutures were used.
7. Make sure to release the cats at the same site they were trapped, during a time when there is little traffic. Place the trap with one end uncovered and facing toward the direction they should travel and let them orient for a few minutes. Open the door. Some cats will come out quickly, and others will take a bit longer.
8. Provide fresh food, water, and shelter (especially important in the winter months). The cats may disappear for a few hours or days, but they will return after they have calmed down.
9. If the trap was borrowed from AlterClinic Animal Care, please clean and return the trap to a staff member.