

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption Rep: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Care for Cats After Spay/Neutering

Although spay/neutering are routine surgeries, they are still considered major surgery. Because of this, **your pet needs special care and attention. Be sure to follow ALL directions below.**

If you have any questions, please call you KittyKind adoption rep/coordinator. You can also call Elfie Berkovitch at (201) 867-4442.

#### General Post-Surgery Instructions:

- Your cat may seem sleepy or less active. This is probably a lingering effect of the anesthesia, which wears off at different times for each animal.
- Confine your cat to a small indoor room, away from children, guests, or other pets. Keep it warm and comfortable. Do not let it rest on cold, hard floors. Provide a blanket to prevent chills. Do not let it jump. It may stumble.
- Your cat needs rest and quiet. No running, rough play, or other major activity.
- Your cat's strength should start returning the day after surgery. Expect normal behavior within 48 hours of the surgery. If you do not feel your pet is acting normally by 48 hours after the surgery, please see your veterinarian, call your KittyKind adoption rep/coordinator (see above).
- Continue to restrict activity for 2 weeks after surgery.

#### Food and Water

- Feed your cat small amounts of food frequently to avoid the cat from gorging.
- Your cat may not have a normal appetite until 48 hours after surgery.
- If your cat feels hot, that may be a sign of a fever. Call your KittyKind rep/coordinator.
- If your cat vomits the first or second day, feed it Level 1 Chicken baby food. Do not use Level 2 or Level 3 as these have onion powder that can cause anemia. If the cat vomits, or is not eating, after one day, you **MUST** call your KittyKind adoption rep/coordinator. The cat can get dehydrated if it is not eating, a very serious condition.

#### Litter

- For the first 3 – 5 days, use a soft litter such as “Yesterday’s News,” or Feline Pine. If you cat won’t use the litter box because of the change of litter, put the new litter under the regular litter. Do not let you cat use the litter box as a bed.
- If the cat has diarrhea for more than a day, call your KittyKind adoption rep/coordinator.

#### Medication

- If you are given liquid Clavamox, please **refrigerate** it. To give liquid medication, scruff gently, high on the neck. Put the syringe in the corner of the mouth, where the back teeth meet.. Squirt, let the cat swallow, squirt again. Let the cat set the pace for swallowing. Never squirt all at once.
- There are different ways to give a pill. See [www.kittykind.org](http://www.kittykind.org), left-hand side, “Cat Care.” Also, try this technique: Relax the cat. If you’re right-handed, have the cat facing right. Pet the cat and scruff lightly, high on the neck. With your right hand, drop the lower jaw, quickly put the pill at the back of the cat’s tongue. Lightly scratch the cat’s throat. When it licks its mouth, it has swallowed. If necessary, crush the pill and disguise the pill in food the cat likes.
- The cat must eat before it gets Clavamox. If it is not eating, you must call your KittyKind adoption rep/coordinator.

DOSAGE	2x, a Day	Start Date	End Date
Pill Clavamox 10 lb. Cat	62.5 mg		
Pill Clavamox 5 lb. Cat	32.5 mg		
Liquid Clavamox 10 lb. Cat	1 cc		
Liquid Clavamox 5 lb. Cat	½ cc		

### Sutures (Stitches)

- Females: the surgeon usually closes the incision with sutures placed under the skin that do not need to be removed. This reduces irritation to the skin and annoyance to your pet.
- Males: no sutures were used.
- Occasionally surgical staples will need to be placed in females. Please check your pet's belly to see if there are staples. If so, they will need to be removed in 10-14 days. This can be done at your regular veterinarian's hospital.

### Accidental Mating After Surgery

- A female cat can be spayed while she is in heat. After the surgery, she cannot get pregnant. However, the hormones have not disappeared from her body, so she can still attract males for up to 2 weeks.
- An accidental mating can cause serious, even life-threatening injury to a female cat.
- Keep your cat strictly confined indoors and away from cats of the opposite gender for 2 weeks.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### *What is a Spay/Neuter?*

A spay refers to removing of the uterus and ovaries. This procedure stops the heat cycles and prevents female cats from becoming pregnant. A neuter is the surgical removal of the testicles (castration).

#### *Why Sterilize?*

Millions of dogs and cats are killed every year due to pet overpopulation.

<b>Average number of litters a fertile cat can produce in one year:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Average number of kittens in a feline litter:</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce.</b>	<b>420,000 cats</b>
<i>* HSUS Pet Overpopulation Estimates (Humane Society of the United States)</i>	

#### *There is swelling at the incision site. Should I be concerned?*

Some swelling is normal and should be expected. If it becomes excessive, oozes, feels hot to the touch, or if your cat is acting ill (decreased activity and/or appetite), please consult your veterinarian.

#### *My cat keeps licking at the incision site. Is this a problem?*

Constant licking can irritate the area and cause delayed healing of the site or the incision to open. Ask your veterinarian about a special collar that will prevent your cat from licking and allow the incision to heal.

#### *There is a little blood at the incision site. Is this normal?*

A small amount of dried fluid or blood is normal for the first night after surgery. However, if oozing continues, consult your veterinarian.

#### *Emergencies*

If you believe your cat is in serious danger, please take it to your local veterinarian immediately. Emergency situations include accidental matings, opening of the incision site, heavy bleeding, loss of consciousness, extreme inactivity, vomiting, not eating, or other indications of shock.

Information is courtesy of: [http://www.ocpetinfo.com/animalcare\\_cats.htm](http://www.ocpetinfo.com/animalcare_cats.htm) (Copyright ©2006 Orange County Health Care Agency.)

And KittyKind: [www.kittykind.org](http://www.kittykind.org)