

POST SURGERY – RETURNING CATS

- Inform caregiver(s) of the scheduled return of the cat(s). (Note: some caregivers may want to be involved).
- Return each cat to the exact location where it was trapped. Make sure the spot chosen to release the cat from the trap does not encourage her to run toward dangerous conditions, such as a busy street or dogs.
- **Dusk or dark** is the best time for release.
- The trap has a rear door, wearing gloves, pull the cover away from the back door, pull the door up and off when applicable, then completely remove the cover and walk away.
- Do not be concerned if the cat hesitates a few moments before leaving. It is simply re-orientating itself to its surroundings.
- If you are returning a mother and one or more of her kittens, release the kittens first and then the mother. Doing so allows the kittens to follow the mother to safety.
- Ensure plenty of food and clean water is available.
- Sometimes the cat(s) may “disappear” for a few days after being returned. The cat(s) will reappear eventually.
- Resume the regular feeding schedule and continue to provide food and clean water. (The cat(s) may eat when you are not around).
- Remove all temporary ID Labels from the trap(s). Thoroughly clean the trap(s) with a nontoxic disinfectant when the returning of the cats(s) is complete. (Even traps that appear clean must be disinfected; the scent of the previously trapped cat may deter other cats from entry).
- Return the cleaned trap(s) to the designated storage area where the traps were loaned out.