



# Madison Cat Project

3205 Latham Dr. Madison, WI 53713 608-492-2090 [clinic@madisoncatproject.org](mailto:clinic@madisoncatproject.org)

## Recovery And Aftercare

Thank you for bringing your cat(s) to be spayed or neutered! Please review the following information so that recovery is as safe and unremarkable as possible. If you have any questions, we'll answer them at the time of check-in on surgery day.

### Recovery

All cats are given an injection of a sedative in preparation for the surgery. It can take up to 24 hours for this sedative to clear the cat's system and during this time they may be a bit clumsy. Make sure to keep them confined to a place where there are no stairs or high perches to fall off. They may also be a bit nauseous, so please feed several small meals through the rest of the day, rather than one large meal tonight. Fresh water should always be available, and normal feeding can be resumed the day after surgery. Try to limit vigorous activity over the next 7-10 days. Discourage rough play, running, and jumping up or down from high places as these activities can strain the healing incision.

Outdoor cats should follow the above recommendations, but this may not be possible based on your situation. They should be kept confined for at least 48 hours after surgery, especially if they are not easily handled by people. If confinement is exceedingly stressful for the cat, the benefit of being let loose should be weighed against the difficulty of catching the cat again in the case of complications that may happen after being released. If there is no suitable confinement for outdoor cats on your property, please contact us and we can discuss how to proceed.

### Monitoring for complications

Deep sleep, incoordination or wobbly movements, and very slight oozing from the surgery area are common after the surgery, and usually don't require veterinary attention. A small amount of surgical glue will be placed over the incision and the tattoo which may appear rough and plastic-like. This is intended and will wear off in a few days.

Examine the surgery site several times daily. The following things are NOT normal and may require veterinary intervention:

- Bleeding from the surgery area
- Not responding when being touched or called
- Frantic pacing, panting or intense agitation
- Oozing, drainage, or inflammation
- Tissue poking out or the incision opening up
- Foul smell or yellow/green discharge

It is very important to prevent licking at the surgery site as this can cause infection and opening of the incision. If your cat licks at the area, you should get a plastic cone collar and keep it on them anytime you're not directly supervising them. We offer them for purchase at the time of surgery for \$10. They are also available at most pet supply stores and veterinary clinics.

If you have questions, please feel free to call or text the Madison Cat Project medical line at **608-492-2090**. Please be aware that we are not a full-service clinic and may only be able to offer advice for how to proceed. If you are in the Madison area and need after-hours emergency care, we recommend contacting Madison Veterinary Specialists at 608-274-7772.

If there are complications with the procedure, please make us aware so we can determine if we need to make any changes to our protocols. We also appreciate hearing when the cat has recovered nicely and is doing well.