



Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Service Overview & Discharge Instructions

Services Overview

- The Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) service provides sterilization surgery for unowned feral cats and kittens.
- Only feral cats, semi-feral cats, and kittens of feral cats in Wisconsin are eligible for this program.
- Releasing and/or feeding free-roaming cats may violate some municipal ordinances. If you are not familiar with your municipality's ordinances, please contact your city hall.

Cost and Scope of Services

- A cost of \$25.00 per cat is to be assessed at the time of drop off.
- Services included: spay/neuter, Rabies vaccination, FVRCP vaccination, ear tipping, and microchip.
 - FeLV/FIV testing is available for an additional cost.

Hours of Operation

- Services are offered Tuesday through Friday
- Drop off between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.
- Pick up between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. the day of surgery.

Trap Rental

- Trap deposit is \$150 deposit. This deposit is not cashed or charged unless the trap is not returned in working order to WHS.
- The daily rental fee is \$3 fee per day.
- If you'd like to find out if traps are available, call us at (414) 431-6102.

Trapping Tips

- Bait the trap with smelly foods such as wet cat food or tuna set as far back in the trap as possible to prevent the cat from getting injured when the trap door shuts.
- To set the trap, pull the bottom door upward and attach it to the hook on the right side of the door. This holds the door open for the cats and raises the trip plate, which will close the trap when the cats step on it.
- Do not trap at night or in extreme temperatures. Doing so may put the cats in danger, as cats may injure themselves trying to escape the trap or be accessible to predators.
 - If you inadvertently trap a wild animal, release the animal immediately. If you have questions or concerns about wild animals, please contact or Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at 414-431-6204. Information is also available online at www.wihumane.org/wildlife
- Cover the trap with a sheet or towel immediately once the cat is trapped. This will help to keep the cat calm.
- If you trap a lactating mother (generally indicated by extremely enlarged mammary glands), release her immediately. Young kittens rely on their mother for food and may not survive without her. Additionally, kittens should not be taken from their mother until they are eating on their own and ideally not until 8 weeks.
- If you find kittens, do not automatically assume they are abandoned. Their mother may have left for a short time. Check back to see if the mother has returned before treating the kittens as abandoned.

Pre-Surgery Guidelines

- Prepare the area where you will hold the cats prior to taking them to the clinic. You may wish to prepare your vehicle by laying down newspapers or towels.
- Provide all cats with water.
- Food should be withheld after 10p the evening prior to surgery if possible.

Post-Surgery Discharge Instructions

- Full recovery from anesthesia may take up to 24 hours. During this time it is important to keep the cat in his/her trap and allow them to rest. Limit interruptions to allow them to recover with minimal additional stress.
- Cats must be kept in a safe, warm place away from other animals to recover from surgery:
 - You can use a garage, basement, bathroom, or extra room, as long as it is safe and warm.
 - WHS recommends setting the trap on bricks with a sheet of plastic underneath, which will keep the cage and your space clean and dry. There may be a few drops of blood in the bottom of the cage and this is normal.
 - Do not put additional items, such as blankets or litterboxes, in the trap. Only food and water dishes should be in the trap with the cat.
 - Keep the trap covered loosely with a towel or sheet to help the cat relax and regulate body temperature.
- Post-surgery Food & Water
 - For adult cats over 5 months of age, offer a little food and water the morning after surgery. If he or she keeps the food down, you can offer more.
 - For kittens under 5 months of age, offer food the day of surgery once the kitten is fully awake.
 - All cats and kittens should be provided with water once fully alert.
- The cat may not urinate or defecate during the first day or two of the holding period.
- Cats do not require suture removal after the surgery.
- If any complications arise from the surgery call WHS at (414) 431-6102 for advice.

Release Guidelines

- Male cats must be kept inside the trap for at least 24 hours post-surgery.
 - Do not release unless the cat is eating and is fully alert.
- Female cats must be kept inside the trap for at least 48 hours post-surgery.
 - Do not release unless the cat is eating and is fully alert.
- Cats need to be returned to their original outdoor location and not relocated to another area. Relocating them can put them in danger because they are not familiar with the area.
- Do not release the cat while they are showing any of these signs:
 - Typical post-surgical behaviors:
 - Deep sleep
 - Head bobbing
 - Wobbly movements
 - Fast breathing
 - Shivering
 - Behaviors of concern:
 - Excessive bleeding from the incision
 - Inability to lift head by evening
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Any abnormalities of the surgical site
 - Lethargy beyond the first day of recovery.
- If any complications arise from the surgery call WHS at (414) 431-6102 for advice.