FERAL CAT POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

- Cats are returned to the trapper the same day as surgery. Male cats can be released back into the colony 24 hours after surgery. Our clinic recommends, if possible, keeping a female cat for a total of 48 hours after surgery. Certain circumstances may dictate that a female needs to be retained for a longer period, as directed by the veterinarian.

- If you are keeping the cat(s) overnight, keep them in the trap in which they were placed after surgery, and keep the back trap door locked at all times. The cat(s) must be kept in a temperature-controlled area. They should be monitored for bleeding, difficulty breathing, lethargy, and/or vomiting or loss of appetite. Some community cats will not eat overnight due to stress. Place the trap in a quiet, well-ventilated, and temperature controlled area.

- Keep the trap covered with a sheet or light blanket during the recovery period. 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.

- When feeding 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 carrier or trap so that the cat does not escape. Keep hands out of the trap, and always relock the trap door. 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.

- All cats are given a long acting pain reliever at the time of surgery. Do not give cats any pain medication that is not prescribed by a veterinarian.

- Check in on the cat periodically. If it is bleeding, vomiting, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up after 24 hours, contact our clinic via EMAIL info@humanesocietyofvaldosta.org or message us on Facebook or Instagram Humane Society of Valdosta.

- The cat does not need to return for suture removal, the clinic uses sutures that dissolve over time.

- Make sure to release the cats at the same site where 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. Unlock the back trap door and remove the door. Some cats will come out quickly, others may take a bit longer. Once the cat is out of the trap, put the door back on.

- 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.

- If the trap was borrowed from the Humane Society of Valdosta, PLEASE RETURN THE TRAP and a staff member will refund your deposit.