

What to Expect After Your Cat's Surgery

Cats may be a bit groggy after surgery, so provide your cat with a safe place to recover. Additionally, your veterinarian has given your cat a safe and effective medication that provides 24 hours of continuous pain control. Some other common temporary changes you may observe while they recover are shown below:

Changes in Behavior

Overly friendly; seeking your company
Alert; responsive but restless
Alert and responsive but prefers to sleep

Changes in Appetite

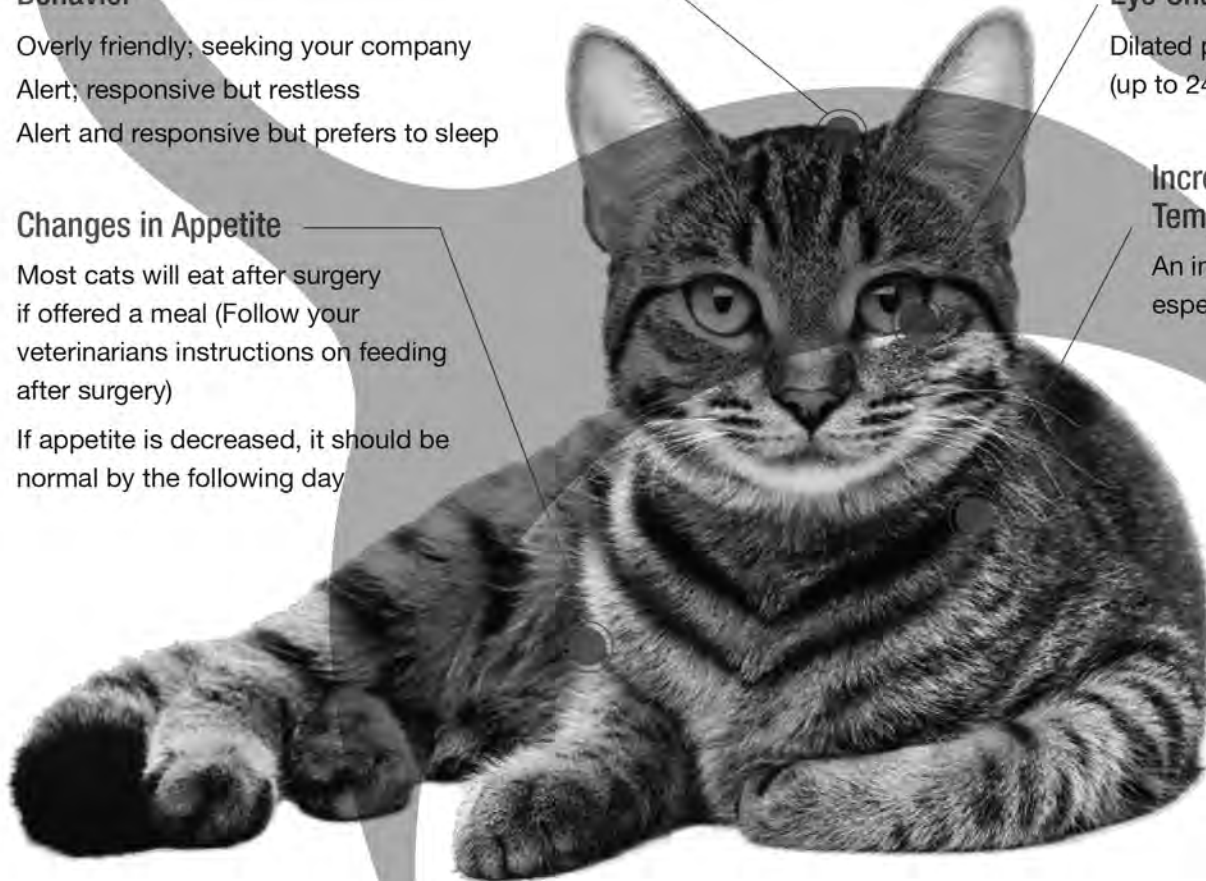
Most cats will eat after surgery if offered a meal (Follow your veterinarians instructions on feeding after surgery)
If appetite is decreased, it should be normal by the following day

Eye Changes

Dilated pupils
(up to 24 hours)

Increased Body Temperature

An increase in warmth, especially in the ears.



Discharge Instructions and Follow-Up

Pet Owner Name: _____ Pet Name: _____

When You Should Call Your Vet

Cats may feel pain as the medication wears off. Signs of feline pain aren't always obvious, and they aren't necessarily what you'd expect to see. But we can assume that if we'd feel pain, our cats will, too. Look for subtle, abnormal changes in your cat's behavior and posture.

Is Your Cat in Pain?^{1,2}

Abnormal Signs to Watch For



MOVEMENT & POSTURE

- Tightly curled or hunched body*
- Eyes partly or mostly shut
- Doesn't move much or at all, or changes position frequently
- Licks, bites or chews at the surgical site



VOCALIZATION

- Growling
- Hissing
- Groaning
- Yowling



CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR

- Tries to bite when approached or when the surgical site is touched or pressed**
- Pulls away to avoid contact
- Not interested in surroundings or family
- Seeks solitude/hides

What Signs Indicate an Emergency?

Although most cats have no problems after surgery, occasionally complications occur. Call your veterinarian immediately if your cat shows any of these signs.

- Decreased, rapid or open-mouth breathing
- Straining to defecate or urinate
- Not eating the day after surgery
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Very sedate or won't wake up
- Act agitated, restless, may not recognize family members

You know your cat better than anyone. If something doesn't seem quite right, contact your veterinarian!

*Feet tucked under, back arched, shoulders hunched, head down. **Unless your veterinarian has instructed you otherwise, it's wise to avoid touching the surgical site for the first day or two. 1. Hallyer PW, Uhrig SR, Robinson NG. Colorado State University Veterinary Medical Center feline acute pain scale. 2006. 2. UNESP-Botucatu multidimensional composite pain scale for assessing postoperative pain in cats.