

られます。あまりひどくなければ、保温と栄養を保ち、抗生作用のある目薬と経口抗生物質を投与しますが、重症のときは安楽死も考慮すべきでしょう。

術後のケアと回復期、その後、群れに戻す不妊手術後は清潔なケージに入れて麻酔からさめるのを待ちます。出産間近の猫に中絶と卵巣摘出手術の両方をした場合は、獣医の指示に従います。1-2日静養させるのが普通です。一般的に、朝早く手術をした猫は、その日の夜、元の所に戻してやって大丈夫です。その方が相互感染を防げるし、ストレスも軽くて済みます。

手術後の回復が思わしくないときは獣医にみせます。回復した猫は捕獲した場所に放してやりま。離れた所に移さないこと。その地区の猫に追い払われて方向感覚を失い、餓死することにもなりかねません。

獣医から深刻な病気を指摘された猫については、安楽死させるべきかどうかの決断を迫られます。治療せずに悪化した膿瘍とか呼吸器感染症、その他、様々な症状で、苦しみを長引かせて、ゆっくりと死んでいくケースも多いのです。

猫を放すまで、トラップには覆いをしておきます。解放の瞬間、猫は矢のように飛び出すので、車の通る道に逃げ込む危険のない所を選びます。用意ができたなら、トラップの扉側を向こうにして押さえ、開けます。猫が動かない時はトラップを少し傾けて後部を軽くたたか、スプレーを使います。中に手を入れるのは絶対禁物です。

使用後のトラップは、ホースで水をかけて洗い、家庭用漂白剤で殺菌します。使わない時は安全な場所に保管しておきます。

群れの監視

群れの安全を守り、新しく加わる猫に不妊手術を受けさせるため、将来にわたって監視を続ける人が必要です。定期的に餌をやることで、「よそ者」を遠ざけ、群れの健康チェックもしやすくなります。避妊済みの「優良ネコ集団」を「捕鼠官」として雇いたい会社があるかも知りません。ネズミ駆除会社に頼むよりも、猫の方が効果的とわかれれば、餌代など安いものでし

よう。

終わりに

組織的に行なわれる「野良ネコ避妊プロジェクト」が、長期的に見て様々な利点があるのは明らかです。?団体の皆様には、多数の懸案事項にも増して、「猫の幸せ」を重視し、この計画を推進して下さるよう希望します。そうすれば、増え続ける「野良猫問題」解決に寄与できるばかりか、自由気ままに生きる「彼ら」のQOL(生活の質)を向上させることにもなるのです。



for ringworm which is more common in kittens than adults. Wash hands immediately following handling of any cat suspected of having ringworm because it is infectious to humans as well as other cats. Bad teeth can also be extracted and an antibiotic injection given to combat infection from any war-wounds or injury.

Feral kittens trapped for neutering are susceptible to upper respiratory viruses, possibly due to the stress of human handling. Warmth, good nutrition, antibiotic eye ointments and oral antibiotics are recommended if infection is not serious but euthanasia must be considered if the kitten is very sick.

Post operative care, convalescence and release

After surgery, return the cat to a clean carrier to recover from anaesthesia. Veterinary advice will be required about the after-care of heavily pregnant females that are aborted and spayed as these may need a day or two to convalesce. Other cats that are neutered early in the day can usually be safely returned to their site that same evening. This will reduce stress to the cat as well as the risk of cross-infection.

If a cat does not seem to be recovering well following surgery, have it examined by a vet before releasing. When cats are ready for release, return to the area where they were trapped and release them there. Do not attempt to relocate a cat - resident cats will drive it away and it will become disoriented and may die from starvation.

If the vet has indicated a serious medical problem with the cat, you must decide whether it is kinder to euthanase it. Untreated abscesses, respiratory infections and a number of other conditions, can mean suffering and a slow death.

Keep the trap covered until you are ready to release the cat. Make sure the spot you pick for release does not allow the cat to run straight into the path of a car as it will probably bolt immediately. When ready, hold the trap with the door facing away from you and open the door. If the cat doesn't move, tilt the trap slightly and tap on the back of the trap or use the water spray. Never put your hand in the trap!

After releasing the cats, hose out the traps and disinfect with household bleach. When not being used, traps should be kept in a secure place.

Monitoring the site

Someone must be available to oversee the future welfare of the colony and to arrange for neutering of any new cats that may join the colony. Such arrangements mean that regular feeding times can be established which will discourage other cats from joining the colony and will allow the health of the colony to be more easily monitored. Some firms are happy to employ a healthy, neutered colony as rodent operatives, finding the cost of cat food much cheaper and the cats more efficient than employing a pest control firm.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that well organised neutering projects have many long-term benefits. If organisations put the welfare of the cat population as a whole at the top of the list of their priorities, they will make a valuable contribution in preventing problems caused by uncontrolled numbers of unwanted cats and will much improve the quality of life for feral cats in their free-living state.