

The Kitty Nurses

Suzanne Stowe's recovery from surgery is being aided by her loving cats.

By Suzanne Stowe

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Baby and Chloe in their cat tree; Zooley, below, peeking out. Two weeks ago, I had to undergo abdominal surgery. I was scheduled to spend only one night in the hospital, so I set up the kitties with extra dry food, lots of water and clean kitty boxes before I went into the hospital.

The surgery turned out to be more extensive than originally expected and I was in the hospital for three days. My biggest concern when I found out I wasn't getting discharged right away was my kitties. Luckily, a friend who works for the same pet-sitting company and had taken care of my babies before was available. She still had my key and was kind enough to check on my kitties and make sure they had what they needed. The lesson learned here was to make sure to have contingency plans in place when you take a trip or go to the hospital because things do not always happen as planned.

Once I got home, I could barely move because of the pain. My kitties seemed to sense what was going on with me. They meowed their welcome at the door as soon as I got home and all three stayed very close to me. However, they stayed off of my abdomen, which was not typical behavior for them.

Now, more than two weeks post-surgery, they are still sticking very close to me. If I am sitting on the couch, Baby and Zooley sit on my lap. Chloe is either on the floor next to me or on the arm of the chair. Having them so close has helped keep my spirits up and hastened my recovery.

My kitties have demonstrated empathy and patience. My recovery would have been much harder had they not been with me.

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