

## TNR INSTRUCTIONS

Just about every neighborhood, parking lot, alley and field has stray and feral cats hiding and trying to scratch out a living. Whether you like cats or not, all of us want to make the stray population disappear. Sadly, there is no way to make that happen. Decades of killing stray cats has not worked. When cats are removed, others move in to take their place. Short of a magic wand, the best we can do for the cats and the community is to stop the population from growing by fixing them. And SNYP provides programs to do just that, even for feral cats you cannot touch or handle.

Feral cat colonies are best managed by practicing TNR or Trap Neuter and Return, which is supported and recommended by the major animal welfare organizations in the nation, such as ASPCA, Humane Society of the US etc. Below are detailed humane trapping instructions which should be followed AFTER you have contacted SNYP to make veterinary arrangements. Please see our webpage for further information.

### PREPARATION: 'trap training' and targeted feeding time

1. It is easier to trap cats if they are used to being fed in the same place at the same time of day. We recommend establishing afternoon feeding regimen because you want to capture the cat on the afternoon before the vet appointment to ensure empty stomach for surgery. You will have better success if the cats are hungry, so don't feed the day before you plan to trap. Tell others who may feed the cats **no food the day before trapping**.
2. 'Trap training' is the best way to insure successful capture. Get the cats used to the trap by leaving it in the feeding area, *with the door tied open with a twist tie*. Leave it tied open for a few days. Then begin to move your food bowls close to the trap, then put the bowl just inside the trap; and every day move it further back until after a week the cat is eating way in the back of the trap, right where you want it to go for successful capture. The afternoon before vet appointment feed as you normally do, but this time set the trap.

### TRAPPING procedure

1. Place trap on a level surface, where the cats are used to being fed. Use smelly bait like canned cat food, canned mackerel or tuna, canned ham or chicken products. **HUMANE**

#### TRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEUTERING WILD CATS

#### PREPARATIONS

1. It is easier to trap cats if they are used to being fed in the same place at the same time of day. Very early am or late afternoon is best time (see #1 Trapping below). Leave food out for no more than one hour, do not free feed!
2. You will have better success if the cats are hungry; so cut back on food before you plan to trap. Tell others who may feed the cats **no or minimal food the day before trapping**.
3. If possible, get the cats used to the trap by holding the door open with a twist tie. Place it in the feeding area for several days before trapping. You can move the food close to and then just inside

the trap, move it back several inches everyday until the cats are eating at very back of trap. Don't leave food anywhere but in the trap. Trap training is not always necessary or possible, but it works.

#### **4. ALWAYS MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH VETERINARIAN IN ADVANCE – SEE FERAL CAT VOUCHER FOR INSTRUCTIONS, TRAP LOCATORS AND VET OFFICES.**

#### **TRAPPING**

1. You will want to trap the cat the evening before the vet appointment, or very early that morning, since the cat should have an empty stomach prior to surgery.
2. Place trap on a level surface, where the cats are used to being fed. Test the trap to be sure door is closing completely and smoothly, you cannot afford mechanical failure!
3. Use smelly bait like canned meat cat food, human tuna or mackerel or canned ham.
4. Use small square of tin foil or newspaper about 4"x4" and place a tablespoon of food and juice on it. . Some people soak a piece of paper towel in the juices and place food on the towel.  
**Put food all the way in the rear of the trap, against the back of the cage.**
5. After setting traps, back off and move out of the immediate area so the cats will approach and eat as usual. The trick is to act like everything is perfectly normal, be calm and matter of fact.
6. **Do not leave traps unattended. Hang around nearby**, but out of sight, or check the traps every 10 minutes. It's best to stay within sight or hearing of the traps so you can remove the trapped animal immediately from the area.
7. **WHEN YOU CATCH A CAT, IMMEDIATELY COVER THE TRAP COMPLETELY** with a bed sheet or blanket, otherwise they will beat themselves up trying to get out and hurt themselves. Remove the trap to a quiet area. Always **KEEP CATS COVERED!**
8. **Cat must be held overnight in quiet, safe, protected area (like garage) where they will not be bothered. DO NOT OPEN TRAP, or allow children or other animals near the traps, always keep traps covered.**

8. Put down a plastic tarp or trash bags, newspaper and a towel under the trap in your car to protect your floor and car. Keep trap covered at all times. Do not transport cats in closed trunk of car.

9. KITTENS! If you suspect or know female has a litter, you can wait to trap her until the kittens are weaned, about 6 weeks old, or you can trap her the morning of the vet appointment, and release her as soon as she is alert and up late that night or early next morning. She will be able to nurse this litter. Kittens should be neutered by 4 months. They can be tamed best before 8 weeks. See [www.feralcat.com](http://www.feralcat.com) and [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) for info on taming kittens.

#### **GO TO VET APPOINTMENT IN AM**

1. Bring large cat carrier and line the floor with about 3 inches of newspaper layers to vet office. The cat will be transferred to the carrier after surgery for recovery.
2. Protect your car by putting tarp, newspaper and towels under the trap. **KEEP TRAP COVERED**
3. You will likely be told to pick cat up in the afternoon. You will have to hold it overnight in the carrier before release.

## **RECOVERY AND RELEASE**

1. The cat will need to sleep off the anesthesia overnight in the carrier. Keep at 65 to 80 degrees, in quiet indoor secure location like a bathroom, laundry room etc. Keep kids and pets away. NO FOOD OR WATER THAT NIGHT. KEEP CARRIER COVERED W SHEET OR BLANKET.

2. PREVENT ESCAPE AND INJURY! Use following procedure to get dirty paper out of carrier.

Get a piece of cardboard that is bigger than the doorframe of your carrier. Butt back end of carrier against the wall, move to front and carefully crack open the carrier door about an inch and slide the piece of cardboard between the door and the doorframe of the carrier. Press the board against the doorframe. Now you can open the door entirely, keep the cardboard firmly against the frame. The cat is now looking at a piece of cardboard where the door was. Carefully slide the cardboard up along the doorframe until there is about 3" opening at bottom of door opening. With your right hand, keep the cardboard pressed firmly against the door frame, with your left hand grab the top half of the newspaper layers and slowly pull the paper out from under the cat and out of the carrier. The cat normally clings to the back of the carrier to stay away from you and steps off the paper.

3. By the next morning the cat should be alert, able to track and focus and not act drunk. IF CAT IS NOT REVIVED BY MIDDAY, CALL VET.

4. Feed the cat a blob of canned food, add some hot tap water and mush into a pudding. Use the cardboard barrier to put food into front of carrier, close the carrier and leave cat to eat for an hour.

5. Take carrier into the feeding area, take cover off and let the cat sit and get oriented for 30 – 60 seconds before opening the door. You may not see the cat for a couple days, but it will be back for food.

**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE PREVENTED THE SUFFERING OF MANY KITTENS!**

**FEED 'EM, FIX EM!** As soon as you notice any new cats, call us immediately and get them fixed pronto before they litter. One female cat and her offspring can produce up to 90+ kittens in a year. Please do not let that happen!

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