



### Community (Feral) Cat Trapping and Care Instructions:

- **Please DO NOT trap cats without an appointment. It is essential we talk with you before you capture cats/set traps!**
- Call us at 541-858-3325 to schedule a feral cat appointment, **be sure to mention feral cats in your message.**
- Your call will be returned to borrow traps, schedule appointments and to receive detailed instructions and support on trapping and after care.
- Please following the instructions below carefully to humanely capture cats.
- **Feeding schedule:** If possible get cats used to this feeding schedule: one meal at the same time every day in the afternoon or early evening, before 10 pm at the latest. No canned food! Save that for yummy bait on trap night.
- After they have eaten, remove the food, or leave only enough so they eat it all right away. You want them to be punctual and dependent on that meal. 2 -3 days before trap night reduce the amount of food by half or more to insure success and add a little canned food. Night before trapping feed tiny blob of canned food only.
- **Trap train for best success.** Trap training is ideal if your situation is secure and traps can be safely left in place. Tie open the trap door w a twist tie, put trap in the feeding area and every day slowly move food dish toward the trap, and then in it, and move dish further back in the trap until the cat becomes comfortable eating in the back of the trap. Do not leave food anywhere else during this process. Ideally do this for a week or more prior to actual trapping.
- **Trap night:** You will catch the cats the afternoon or evening before their appointment. They must overnight in the trap to ensure they have no food in their belly for surgery in the morning.
- Test your traps to be sure they are working by setting them and then stick a pencil or stick thru side of the trap and depress the trip plate, like the cat is stepping on it. Be sure the door is closing completely, smoothly and latching. You cannot afford a mechanical failure!!!
- On trap night make everything the same as it usually is, only difference is tonight your traps will be set. Use about a tablespoon of smelly canned food, not the whole can, way in the back of the trap.
- **WATCH YOUR TRAPS! NEVER LEAVE A SET TRAP UNATTENDED!** Move away and hide and watch. As soon as a cat is caught, **immediately cover the trap** completely w a blanket or sheet and move the cat out of the area; return and monitor the remaining traps.
- **After trapping is completed,** place the cats overnight in a safe, warm place out of the weather and protected from any other animals, such as a garage. **DO NOT OPEN THE TRAPS!** Keep children and pets out of the area.

- Keep the traps **covered completely** at all times with cloth (no tarps), as this helps keep the cats calm. Line the floor with a tarp or plastic bag and cover with newspaper. Set the trap on top of the papered area.
- Bring the cats to the SNYP Spay/Neuter Clinic the next morning for your scheduled spay/neuter appointment. Bring to the clinic an empty plastic cat carrier for each trapped cat. Line the floor of the carrier thickly w 1-2 inch layers of newspaper. The cat will be in the carrier when you return at a specified time to pick it up. Please get your sheet or blanket back and cover the carrier.

## Post-surgery care

- The cats will need to recuperate over night after their surgery **indoors in a warm quiet place** inside their covered carrier. Like people, cats can't regulate their body temperature because of anesthesia and are cold. Keep the cats away from loud noises to sleep off the anesthesia - no music, pets or people. Do not let children near them. A warm basement, garage or bathroom is fine.
- Safety first! **Keep the carrier covered** to ease the cats' stress. Never (never) open the doors or let the cats out. Keep children away from the area.
- Monitor the cats periodically. If a cat is vomiting, bleeding, having difficulty breathing, or not waking up after several hours, get veterinary assistance immediately. Before the surgery, know how to reach the clinic beforehand if there are problems during recovery. **DO NOT OPEN CARRIER OR TOUCH/HANDLE CAT.**
- No food or water for adults. Small kittens can be fed shortly after waking from anesthesia. **CAREFULLY** crack the carrier door slowly and just enough to slide a plastic lid with a little bit of wet food on it through the gap—don't put your hand inside. If you feel you can't slide a plastic lid in without the cat trying to escape, then don't feed them. The cats will be OK, and they can eat once they are released.
- Cats can usually be released the morning following surgery, assuming they are alert, can track and focus w their eyes and are not acting drunk. Wait until they are in this condition before release. Take the cats back where they were trapped, never release them in a strange location, remove the cover from the carrier, back away. Make the cat sit in the carrier for 1-2 minutes to get oriented before you open the door and move away for cat to leave the carrier.