

# HOW TO TRAP A CAT



## **Traps**

Have-A-Heart or Tomahawk traps have been used successfully.

Many organizations will let you borrow their traps for a small deposit which is refundable upon the trap's return.

## **Bait**

Smelly fish such as tuna, sardines or mackerel - other things work such as chicken - you will learn by trial and error.

## **Other Needed Items**

A towel or sheet to cover the trap

Flashlight for night trapping

Patience and determination

## **Procedure**

Prior to trapping, notify your neighbors of your intention.

Have them keep their cats indoors during this time, or tag them so if they are caught, they will be let go.

Establish a pattern. Feed in the same place and time every day.

Contact your vet or clinic and let them be aware of your intentions and make a prior arrangement

Set the trap(s) after one day of not feeding. This may be hard for you but most ferals will not enter a trap unless they are good and hungry.

Use smelly food to attract - Sardines and Tuna are good.

Using a trap with a sliding back door makes it easier to release an animal that you didn't want to trap. Make sure you know how to work the trap. Practice before hand if you must.

After you have trapped the animal, cover trap with a towel, sheet or blanket - this will calm the cat (please note: even non-feral cats will panic when trapped).

**DO NOT LEAVE THE TRAP SET OVERNIGHT unless you are also there watching and waiting. Leaving an unattended trap is both dangerous and irresponsible.**

Trapped cats can be left in the trap overnight as long as they are covered and in a SAFE and secure environment such as a garage or basement protected from dogs and other predators.

Cats can be transported to the vet in the trap. Place a piece of plastic (garbage bags work well) under the trap - some cats may urinate out of fear and stress.

When spaying or neutering, please be sure to tell the vet to use dissolving sutures because it is almost impossible to re-trap a cat for suture removal.



*Notching the Left Ear is the universal sign to trappers that the cat has already been altered, in case it is trapped again.*

Males can usually be released within 12 after surgery, but, the veterinarian has the final say. Females require more time and should be held No Less than 48 hours. Cats CANNOT be left in the trap for any length of time. Therefore, have a cage available for this purpose.... Line the cage with newspaper which makes it easier to clean. You will also need a litter box, water and food

Please remember that these cats do not understand what you are trying to do. They feel trapped and threatened and may become hostile. Exercise caution at all times.

After the appropriate recovery time, transport the cat back to the release site. Open the door of the carrier, stand back and they will just run out.

Good Luck! and remember it is all our responsibility to help reduce the pet over-population.

