



# Humane Trapping Instructions

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## Important

- **Do not leave set traps unattended.**
- Never leave the traps in unsafe areas, including in direct, hot sunlight or in an uncovered area in the rain.
- Put plastic, newspapers or towels under the traps when transporting them to protect your vehicle and make any clean-up easier.
- Do not transport cats in car trunks or open-bed trucks.
- Prepare a place in a garage or other sheltered, protected area where you can hold the trapped cat(s) until you bring it/them for surgery.

## Supplies

- Flashlight if trapping at night.
- Small bag for empty cat food cans.
- Paper towels, a spoon, and a small trash bag.
- Smelly bait, such as tuna or fishy canned cat food.
- Sheet to cover trap after cat is trapped.

## Preparation for trapping

- Feed at the same place and time every day so you know when to expect the cats.
- Only leave food out for 30 minutes when feeding, this will help the cats expect food at a specific time.
- Leave the trap unset or tied open with twist ties during routine feeding so the cat will become accustomed to it.
- Don't feed the day before trapping, so that cat(s) are hungry and go after the bait.
- Note: Cats should not eat within 12 hours prior to surgery.
- Time the trapping so that cat(s) won't be in the traps with you too long (12-18 hours is fine, and longer may be okay if they are kept in a safe, secure location).

## Setting the traps

- Set the traps just before the cats' normal feeding times.
- Place the traps on a level surface where cat(s) usually feed and where they will not be noticed by those who might interfere.
- Place one tablespoon of the bait (no more!) at the back of the trap either on the ground or on a small plastic lid or piece of paper plate.
- If the food is on the ground, put the back end of the trap over the top of the food and press down on the trap to squish the food up into it.
- Put 2 or 3 little dribbles of food leading out of the trap.



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- Break up any larger chunks of bait into small pieces. The cats will grab bait if it's in large pieces and pull it outside the trap to eat it.
- After baiting, open the trap door and use the small hook attached to the right side of the trap top to hold the door in the open position. This pulls up the plate the cat will step on which triggers the door to close.

## Waiting for success

- Watch traps very quietly from a distance.
- As soon as the cat is trapped, cover the trap completely with a sheet.
- Check the cat for an ear tip. If its ear is tipped, this means it already has been neutered or spayed and you may release it.
- Immediately move the cat to a quiet area away from other traps.
- If the cat is a female, check to see if she is lactating. If she is lactating, look (and listen) for her kittens.
- Release other wild animals that are trapped.

## Holding procedures

- House the cat(s) in a garage or other sheltered, protected area before surgery.
- Place newspapers under the trap to catch stool, urine and food, and elevate the trap using bricks or pieces of wood, which will allow the stool, etc., to fall to the newspaper.
- Don't feed the captured cat(s).
- You may provide water by slipping a saucer or empty cat food can under the trap door.
- Keep trap(s) covered when cat(s) are in them.

**NOTE: Do not remove the cat from a trap to another cage or container; most vets prefer to work with cat(s) in traps. You risk being bitten and you run the risk of allowing the cat to escape, no matter how experienced you are. (Experienced trappers and handlers rarely, if ever, transfer trapped cats).**

**NOTE: All animal bites are serious. If a cat bites you, call an Alley Cat Advocates staff member immediately. You may need medical attention. Do not release the cat; it must be quarantined, which can be arranged through Alley Cat Advocates.**

**NOTE: Most cats will allow themselves to be trapped only one time. Do not release a cat with the expectation that you will trap it again.**



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## Additional Trapping Tips

### Cats aren't interested in the traps?

- Try a different food, either what you usually feed them or canned plain tuna or chicken.
- Put the cover over the trap, this may make some cats feel more comfortable going in.
- Change trap locations, traps may work best where you usually feed or somewhere secluded.
- If there is still no interest, a drop trap may be necessary next time.

### Cats aren't around?

- Drip the juice from the bait food cans around the traps and the perimeter of the property.
- Look for possible cat pathways, such as bare trails in the grass or holes at the bottom of fences, and set up the traps near these areas.
- If you have a routine of calling the cats to dinner, call for them!

### Cats aren't setting off the trip plate?

- Put a stick through the bars of the trap just before the trip plate, this forces the cat to step over the stick and onto the plate.
- Cover the trip plate with natural material, such as leaves or dirt, or a small piece of cardboard, this will make the area of the trip plate bigger and more disguised.
- Put some flakes of food onto the trip plate.
- Have big chunks of food squashed under the trap at the back, this helps the cat focus more on getting the food than avoiding the plate.
- Some cats may go in and out of a trap many times before going all the way in, always re-bait a trap after a cat has eaten some of it.