

# TNR TIPS & TRICKS



## *Getting Ready*

- Ensure you have the financial resources or funding for your TNR project and that you are aware of SAAF, The Humane Society or WOW partner vet appointment policies.
- Establish a feeding schedule. Feed the cats at the same time and place each day, for a few days to a week prior to trapping. You will eventually place the traps in this area, so make sure it is a safe and level location.
- If you need humane traps, you may rent them out from WOW. We require a \$25 cash deposit for each trap, which will be refunded when you return them after finishing your colony.
- Be sure to alert the neighbors that you will be trapping or management if it is a business. Most will be very grateful. Ask them to keep their own cats inside on the days that you trap. Also ask your neighbors if their cats are spayed/neutered.
- How many cats total need trapped? \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the address of the colony of cats? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the name and phone number of the feeder? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*PLEASE DO NOT TRAP A CAT UNLESS YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE CLINIC WITHIN 24-48 HOURS.\*\***

## *Supplies*

- Humane traps
- Cans of tuna, sardines, warm rotisserie chicken, mackerel in oil, or other enticing food.
- Newspaper to line the bottom of each trap.
- Zip ties to secure the trap once cat is safely caught inside
- A large towel or cloth to cover each trap. This will calm the cat once in the trap.
- Lids, half paper plates or small scraps of cardboard to hold the food. Gloves & Hand Sanitizer
- Vehicle to transport the cats and a tarp or sheet to protect your vehicle.

## Withholding Food

You must withhold ALL food from the cats you intend to trap for 24 hours before trapping. This may involve asking neighbors to withhold food as well. This will ensure that the cats are hungry enough to enter the traps. Also, surgery is ideally performed on cats with empty stomachs. You should always provide clean drinking water.

### *Start Trapping \*\* You NEVER leave a trap unattended. PERIOD. \*\**

- Make sure that you know how to work the trap BEFORE you begin to trap.
- It is helpful to trap at the same time that you would normally feed the cats. They will be hungry and waiting for you to bring food.
- Place a tablespoon of food on your half-torn paper towel or small food container provided by WOW. Open the end and place it the trap careful to NOT block the trip plate. Drizzle some juice from the food along the trap toward the entrance in a zigzag pattern. Place about a half teaspoon of food in the middle of the trap, near the trip-plate, and another half teaspoon a few inches from the entrance of the trap. It is important not to leave too much food in the front and middle, as this may satisfy the cat before the trap is set off.
- Set the traps in the usual feeding time and place.
- If you are using multiple traps, stagger them, and place them facing in different directions, with at least a couple of feet in between each trap.
- *Move quietly and slowly and try to remain relaxed*, so your behavior will not frighten the cats away.
- Set each trap once in place.
- Offer food to remaining cats once you are done trapping for the day.
- As cats go in, if possible, step in and cover the triggered traps holding cats and quietly go back to your safe spot while you watch for the others. Once the traps are all full of cats, zip tie both ends, then cover the trap again BEFORE carrying traps to your SUV or garage.
- Leave the area quietly. If the cats are used to being called for their food, do so before you leave. **DO NOT LEAVE THE TRAP(S) UNATTENDED.** Find a place away from the trap (in your car, house, behind a building) and wait for the cat to go in. A cat left alone in a trap for even short periods of time can be treated badly by other people or animals. They are also vulnerable to the weather. They may bang against the trap and injure themselves. If you are trapping at your home, remember to trip or remove the trap before you go to bed at night. **NEVER** leave traps set and unattended. **EVER.**



## After Trapping

- **NEVER** attempt to touch or handle the cat! You could suffer a serious wound!
- After the cats have been caught, keep the traps covered at all times. This will help calm them. Cats will often thrash around inside the trap and it may be tempting to release them. No matter what, **NEVER LET A CAT OUT OF A TRAP WITHOUT BEING FIXED FIRST** (even if you catch a cat you weren't expecting). Cats become trap-shy easily, and you may not be able to catch that cat again. **Every cat gets a trip to the vet to be checked out, fixed and tipped UNLESS you catch a cat with a collar on that clearly belongs to a neighbor.**
- If the feral cat has kittens, they will be fine without her for 12 hours, and mom cats will continue to nurse even if they are spayed (if tame, wait till kittens are 7 to 8 weeks). Any Clinic will check feral cats for lactation and call you to pick your cats up the same day if she is lactating so you can release her early if that is safe and possible.
- **Your WOW TNR liaison will help set appointments for your cats at various area clinics and get you the info.**
- Unless other arrangements are made, the cats are typically same day pick up and must be recovered by the trapper or other arrangements made.
- Cats can be released the 24 to 48 hours after surgery, barring inclement weather. Please ensure cats have access to shelter, fresh water, and food and are released in EXACTLY the same spot they were trapped. Set up a spot in your garage, laundry or bathroom to keep them safe during recovery.
- Make sure cats are fully conscious and alert before release. Release the cats in the same area that you trapped them. It is not uncommon for the cats to stay away for a few days after release; they will return. Keep leaving food and water out.
- NEVER release cats into an unfamiliar location without following relocation guidelines, which can be provided if needed. Relocating cats without following the proper guidelines (which includes having a caretaker willing to accept them and confine them at first) is cruel and will endanger their lives.

## Special Trapping Tips

If certain cats will not go into the traps, try feeding them in unset traps for several days before trapping. Zip tie the trap doors open. Feed the cats in the same place and time as usual, but place the food right inside the trap entrance. Gradually move the food farther into the trap, until the cat feels comfortable eating in the trap. Once they become accustomed to eating inside the traps, they should be easier to trap.

It is much easier to trap the second round of kitties the same day you release the ones you just had fixed so plan on immediately setting the traps IF the they aren't gross and the cats are from the same colony.



For REALLY hard to trap cats or a litter of kittens, we might need to deploy our drop trap to assist.

Your WOW Liaison is: \_\_\_\_\_