

The Feral Cat Coalition estimates that there are over *60 million* stray cats in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that there are an additional 5 million domestic cats *abandoned* annually.

### **Trapping Instructions**

Use a humane animal trap (shown below) for trapping stray or feral cats. The following baits are recommended to attract cats: fish (canned tuna, sardines), cooked meat, or chicken.

- (1) Place bait on a small plastic or ceramic bowl/plate; Do **NOT** leave food in the can or use a glass bowl. Place bowl at the **very back** of the trap (NOT on trigger plate!)
- (2) Fold some newspaper and lay in the trap, so the cat is not laying on the wire cage bottom , but it is not interfering with the closing of the trap.
- (3) After setting the trap-to entice the cat inside the trap, leave a little food on the newspaper just inside the door of trap and make a little trail of food outside in front of the trap. Using canned food is better- more enticing. Be careful not set off trap, if you do just reset.
- (4) Set the trap at least a day or two *prior to* your spay/neuter appointment date. If necessary, the trap can be placed in desired location and tied open several days prior to appointment to get the cat used to going in to/out of the trap (use as a feeding station).
- (5) Cover approx  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the trap with a sheet, towel or blanket and secure it around the trap. Be careful not to interfere with the trigger mechanism. Cover with a piece of plastic or garbage bag if there is a chance the trap will get wet.
- (6) Set trap in a quiet, flat area close to where the cats usually come to feed.
- (7) Do NOT put any other food around during the time you are trapping!
- (8) Keep children and dogs away from the trap.
- (9) **Once the cat is trapped**, cover trap completely and place cat/trap in a quiet location (garage, ventilated shed, etc) until transporting to shelter or vet for spay/neuter appt.

**Once the cat is in the trap-DO NOT OPEN TRAP DOOR- under any circumstances - you will not be able to trap that animal again!**

Place bait at the back of the trap, not on trigger plate.

