



TNR - Trapping Guidelines for Trap-Neuter-Return Program- DO'S and DON'TS

- 🐾 DO rent a trap at the shelter for \$50 deposit. Or purchase at a hardware store, Tractor Supply, or online (HAV-A-HART traps); Because of limited traps available only 2 traps can be rented at a time.
- 🐾 DO ask for trapping instructions when you pick up your trap at our shelter. Make sure that you understand how to open and set the trap before you leave the shelter.
- 🐾 DO call for spay/neuter appointment before setting your trap. 610-760-9009 press line #1; trap the day before your appointment.
- 🐾 DO NOT trap unless you have an appointment to take them for surgery the next day. Cats can be held overnight and fed in the traps the evening before surgery.
- 🐾 DO NOT attempt to transfer cats from the trap to a dog crate or carrier. For the safety of our vet staff, PLEASE do not bring feral cats for surgery in a dog crate or pet cat carrier, cardboard box or pillowcase.
- 🐾 DO transport them **covered** to the spay/neuter clinic at your assigned check-in night. Protect your vehicle as well- put newspaper and garbage bags under the trap.
- 🐾 DO NOT trap a cat/kitten for relinquishment to an animal shelter for destruction.
- 🐾 DO NOT trap cats or wild animals and take them elsewhere to let loose. This is illegal and lethal for animals involved. And it does not solve the problem of reducing the cat population.
- 🐾 DO release a wild animal from the trap safely, if caught by accident.
- 🐾 DO return your trap as soon as you are done using it. Other people may be waiting to rent traps as well. *Your deposit will be returned ONLY if the trap is brought back in clean, working condition.*
- 🐾 DO NOT pay a “Critter Control” person to trap for you. They take your money and dump the cats somewhere not fixed or kill them. ALWAYS search for a non-profit rescue organization.

Pre-Trapping Instructions

- 🐾 DO place the trap in the area where you typically feed the cats. Do not place a trap out in the open; place under shrubs, small trees, corners of buildings, etc. and **cover it**.
- 🐾 DO check with neighbors to see if there are other people feeding. If so, ask them to discontinue until TNR is finished or put traps at their feeding station.
- 🐾 DO secure the trap door open with wire, string or a stick. Place a thin layer of newspaper on the bottom. If it gets wet or blows, you can leave the bottom bare. **Plan to use the trap as a feeding station 3-4 days in advance of your surgery date.** This helps the cats get accustomed to entering the trap and not to be afraid.
- 🐾 DO place food at the front of the trap on the first day and move the food toward the back of the trap each feeding afterward. You are training the cat not to be afraid to go all the way into the trap the day/evening of trapping.
- 🐾 DO NOT feed the cats 24 hours BEFORE (or 1 feeding before) the day/evening of trapping. If they are used to being fed and now are hungry, it will increase the success of catching them. Kittens weighing 3 lbs will trip the plate; can be trapped, fixed and eartipped.

Trapping Instructions

- 🐾 DO use their favorite food. Preferably wet food or tuna and place at very back of trap, not interfering with the trip plate. Use a small paper plate, or small plastic lid, not bowls or plates.

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- 🐾 DO NOT place the food too closely to the trip plate, the cat can lean over it rather than step on it. You do NOT have to use a lot of tuna. You will be feeding them later after trapping them.
- 🐾 DO release the trap door and set the hook which activates the trip plate. Keep trap covered- use plastic or trash bag if having rainy weather.
- 🐾 DO put trapped cat in a quiet safe place out of the weather until time of transporting for surgery. The cats can be fed food thru the top of the trap. Wet food is preferable because there is moisture and eliminates the need to put a container of water in the trap.
- 🐾 DO NOT attempt to transfer cats to carriers as they are very fast and will get out. Leave them in the traps until surgery.
- 🐾 DO be patient and diligent. The sound of trap doors can scare some cats away. Keep in mind that they are hungry and will come back for food. Sometimes, they will wait until it gets dark which makes them feel safer, so be patient!
- 🐾 DO NOT leave traps open overnite or unattended or you will be trapping wildlife such as skunks, opossums or raccoons. If you did not get all of the cats, close the traps down for the evening and start again in the morning in daylight. The longer the cat goes without food, the greater your chance of success. **BE PATIENT!**
- 🐾 DO keep cat(s) in a quiet, warm place to recover. They can be fed through the top of the trap, again with wet food. In most cases, a male cat can be released out of the trap 18-24 hours after surgery. Females should be left in the trap to recover for 48 hours. There are very few cases that a cat should be in the trap for a longer period. The clinic will inform you if there are additional needs.
- 🐾 DO NOT remove cats from the safety of a humane trap and place them into a room. WHY? Because the natural instinct of the cat is to jump and try to find a way out. The cat needs to be in a small contained space for the first 48 hours to avoid ripping open the incision.
- 🐾 DO fix lactating mothers .The surgery does not interfere with the ability to make milk. The staff will inform you if they need to be released same day of surgery and will give you proper instructions for post surgery care before release. The vet will make a side incision so it does not interfere with her nursing ability.
- 🐾 **All cats receive a left ear tip; ALL cats receive a green tattoo along the incision line.**
- 🐾 **ALL free roaming cats should be ear- tipped. It is done under anesthesia and does not hurt them but it does PROTECT them! Why? Because the ear-tip (left) is a universal sign that this cat is fixed and vaccinated. For communities that have animal control/ kill shelter contracts, these beautiful cats are killed because they are not adoptable and take up space. An ear-tip may save their lives!!!**
- 🐾 **DO get your neighbors involved in the process, then the whole neighborhood benefits.**
- 🐾 DO know that fixing our free roaming cats is the first step. However, we must also recognize that they still pee and poop and will go wherever they find a great spot for a litter box.
- 🐾 DO your best to prevent the cats from using the neighbors' mulch, patio furniture or their well tended vegetable or flower gardens. It's our responsibility to provide ideas to keep the "peace" or the cats will always lose this battle.
 - 🐾 DO close up spaces the cats can get under.
 - 🐾 **DO use SAFE Cat Deterrents;** purchase YARD SENTINEL and ScareCrow deterrents. Yard Sentinel is an ultrasonic device. ScareCrow is a motion sensitive water sprinkler device.
 - 🐾 DO place mothballs or hot chili powder on the flower beds to prevent the cats from going there.