

Trapping Tips

DO utilize trap training to increase the likelihood of the cat going all the way to the back of the trap to trigger it. Use your trap which has the trap door zip tied open and feed cats first near, and then inside the trap (further in every day) for 1-2 weeks prior to trapping. Provide **NO** additional free food outside of the trap.

DO withhold food for 24 hours before trapping to make sure cats are hungry on trapping day.

DO trap at a similar time of day to the usual feeding time, the day before the appointment as long as weather permits- check the forecast as rain typically does not produce good trapping results.

DO inspect the trap before trapping. Assure all moving parts move smoothly- if not spray with lubricant like white lithium grease (for low odor). Assure back doors are secure. Test the trap by pushing down on the plate- we do it three times to make sure! Be acquainted with the function of your trap- how to set, how the back door opens and secures etc. YouTube has great instructional videos on any trap available.

DO trap with an enticing bait like fish variety canned food- but be prepared to substitute it if cats are uninterested. Sometimes what you typically feed works best.

DO use a bowl for the bait that is small enough not to interfere with the trap's pressure plate. Only a small amount of food is needed. Cat food cans have sharp edges that can injure the cat and should not be used.

DO monitor your traps while trapping frequently allowing no more than 15 minutes to pass between checks. Utilize direct line of sight through a house or car window, ring doorbells or other security cameras to monitor. Cats left uncovered in traps for extended lengths of time are at high risk for injury. It is never acceptable or humane to set a trap and leave the trapping area, go to sleep, etc.

DO check trapped cats for an ear tip- look carefully at the left ear. If the tip of the ear is missing, and you have no health concerns for the cat, please release immediately. This cat has already been spayed or neutered. Reset and try again.

DO cover the trap with a towel and bring the cat into a covered area as soon as it is trapped. This cover should remain over the cat throughout the process. This cover is likely to be replaced at the clinic and won't be returned to you so don't send one you care about seeing again. Cats should calm significantly with covering but may still thrash about or reach paws out.

DO be cautious of your hand placement on the traps- the handle is really the only safe/protected place.

DO not under any circumstances let the cat out of the trap until it returns from the clinic to you. Ignore the pleading eyes and promises to be a good kitty. Once the cat is out it can

be near impossible to get them in the trap again. It is not uncommon for cats to cut their noses in the process of trying to escape- they will be ok.

DO remove, as much as feasibly/safely possible, the food from the trap no later than midnight the night before surgery. Provide water which does not need to be removed.

DO place the traps on something absorbent such as puppy pads before surgery and for transport. Cats will pee while in the trap and occasionally poop. As much as you can, clean the poop from the bottom of the trap but never reach inside due to escape and injury risk.

DO provide a name for the cat- you're bonded now!