



GUIDELINES FOR TRAPPING AND CARING FOR COMMUNITY/FERAL CATS

Plan & Prepare

- Schedule spay/neuter appointment(s). Notify us of any medical issues, possible kittens, etc.
- Create consistent feeding schedule and location.
- If you're trapping in a new area, put the trap out a few days before trapping (unset) to get cats used to its presence.
- Withhold food for 24 hours prior to trapping. Continue to offer fresh water.
- Set up a holding & recovery space - moderate temperature, protected from elements and predators.

Trap

- Trap the day/evening before appointment.
- Prepare traps with a liner (newspaper or cardboard) and bait - tuna, wet food - about 1 tbsp. **Too much food can cause vomiting & potentially life threatening aspiration when undergoing anesthesia!**
- **No** cans, glass or ceramic bowls in traps! Cats can be cut on sharp edges.
- Do not put anything in the trap you want back - we cannot guarantee it will get back to you.
- Cover trapped cats immediately to keep cat calm/warm.
- Please call us as soon as possible if you are not able to meet the number of appointments scheduled (over or under). We base our staffing on the number of appointments scheduled.

Recovery Care

- Keep cat (covered in trap) for 24 hours after surgery in a warm and dry place. Pregnant/in-heat cats may be kept longer (48 hours), lactating cats may be returned earlier if kittens can not be found and we are able to reverse the anesthesia.
- Offer food that night (around 6:00-7:00 pm) and the next morning. Use wet food mixed with some water to avoid accidents with water bowls.

Returning Cats

- Return cats to the same spot they were trapped.
- It is not uncommon for cats to "disappear" for a few days after being returned. Continue to offer food and water - he/she is likely eating when you are not around. He/she will likely resume her normal schedule after a few days.
- Continue to monitor for injury/illness. TNR any newcomers.
- Follow best practices for community care.