

How to Catch a Feral Cat and Trapping Instructions

- Establish a regular feeding routine. Feed at the same time and place every day.
- Tie the door of the trap open several days before your spay-neuter appointment if the trap is located in a safe place where it won't be stolen. Start feeding ONLY in the trap. If the cat wants the food, make him/her go into the trap to get it. *Please do not open the back end of the trap on the silver traps.* It is difficult to put it back together. Only use the front trap door.
- 24 hours before you set the traps, remove and withhold all food.
- Prepare your holding area before setting the trap. You will need a quiet, protected spot to keep the trapped cat before the clinic appointment and after the surgery. It should be a place where the temperature is mild (anesthesia renders them unable to regulate their body temp), they are protected from other animals, and that is quiet and free of disturbance.
- Prepare the ENCLOSED transport vehicle. Use a tarp or plastic sheeting with towels or some other absorbent material to catch any waste.
- 12-24 hours prior to your appointment, set the trap. Keep the trap door in the open position with string or a twist tie so it's out of the way while you work;
 - Fold a lightweight cloth lengthwise and insert it to cover the wire bottom of the trap and the trip plate.
 - Insert a jar lid or shallow plastic bowl that will be used later to provide water;
 - Put about 2 tablespoons of canned cat food (or human tuna or mackerel or some other strong-smelling enticing food) at the very back of the trap. Then drizzle some juice or oil in a zigzag pattern from the back of the trap towards the front. Place about ¼ teaspoon of the food over the trip plate, and another ¼ teaspoon about 6" inside the front of the trap. Drizzle a little aroma trail from 12" outside the trap to the first ¼ teaspoon of food. Alternatively, sprinkle a few grains of dry food leading into the back of the trap, but not too much.
 - Put the trap on a stable surface where it will not rock or tip.
 - As soon as you set the trap, put the cover over the trap leaving the door area uncovered. The cat may thrash but will probably become very quiet if you keep it covered.
 - If using multiple traps, stagger them and face the openings in different directions;
 - Remove the string or twist tie holding the door open, and set the trap by using the lever to catch open the trap door. The trip plate should be at an angle so it triggers the trap door when the cat steps on it.
 - Quietly move away. Ideally, you should watch the trap(s) from a distance;
- Check the trap often, especially in hot or cold temperatures. Do not leave the trapped cat exposed to the weather. Take the trapped cat to your holding area.
- Keeping your fingers and face away from the trap, peel back the cover enough to fill the lid or bowl with water. Use a turkey baster or a vessel with a narrow pour spout. If the lid or bowl is upside down, use a blunt stick through the bars to turn it over. The cat will be very frightened and may act aggressive out of fear, so be as quick and unobtrusive as you can. Under no circumstances should you open the trap or stick your fingers in.
- Cover the trap entirely again, and leave the cat in the holding area until you leave for the appointment. Keep the trap covered at all times.
- Follow the post-surgery instructions for feral cats until time to release the cat.
- It is not advisable to relocated cats unless there is no other choice. If this is something that must be done, let us know and we'll provide tips on doing so.