

Thank you for caring about the well-being of our local community cats! This guide will help you safely trap community cats and ensure their safe recovery from spay/neuter surgery.

Community Cat is a term used to describe outdoor, unowned, free-roaming cats. These cats could be friendly toward humans or untamed, adults or kittens, healthy or sick, or altered or unaltered. They may or may not have a caregiver. The only outdoor, free-roaming cats who are not community cats are those who have an owner.

THE CATS



- Kittens need to be at least 3 months of age and weigh at least 3 pounds (1.4 kg) to qualify for spay/neuter surgery. Studies show that kittens weighing more than 3 pounds at the time of surgery have the best chance to survive and thrive after surgery.
- If possible, wait to trap nursing females until her kittens have been weaned (~8 weeks post-partum). The mother will have an easier time with healing if her surgery is performed after the kittens have weaned.
- Before bringing in a cat you've trapped, double-check their ears. If the tip of the left ear has been cleanly removed, that cat has already had surgery!

THE TRAP

- If renting our traps, we will guide you on how to use them in person when you come to collect them.
- If using your own trap, it must measure at least 30"L x 10"W x 12"H. Do not use traps any smaller or much larger than this. Our traps measure 36"L x 10"W x 12"H.



PREPARING THE TRAP

- Traps should be lined with newspaper or pee pads, as shown above (you can tape it down if it's windy).
- Place one of the following in the far back of the trap, closest to the closed end of the trap, behind the trigger plate: Food you know they already enjoy +/- canned wet cat food; canned tuna, mackerel, or sardines (in oil); small piece of boneless fried chicken.

WHEN TO TRAP

- Our facility only offers appointments Mondays-Thursdays (except holidays). You will need to set your trap(s) the day before your scheduled appointment and hold the cat(s) overnight. The best times to trap cats are early morning, dusk, and around the times you normally see/feed them.
- Vigilantly monitor traps throughout the day, especially on particularly hot or cold days. Never leave a trap set overnight or out in inclement weather.

WHERE TO TRAP

- Place the prepared trap on level ground near where you normally feed or see the cats regularly.
- Make sure this is an area you can easily see for monitoring.

YOU'VE CAUGHT A CAT. NOW WHAT?

- Never attempt to handle the cat in any way! No fingers in the trap!
- Double-check that both doors are completely secure and properly latched.
- Cover each trap individually and completely with a sheet, large beach towel, or lightweight blanket. This will help to minimize stress and keep you and the cat safe.
- Keep the cat in a quiet, climate-controlled area like a garage, basement, or bathroom to minimize stress and to keep the cat safe while they await their appointment.

TRANSPORTATION & POSTOPERATIVE CARE

- Line your vehicle with absorbent material underneath the traps; do not stack traps.
- When you come to pick up the morning after surgery, you will receive paperwork with further instructions.
- Generally speaking, males and lactating females do not need to remain in the trap once you pick them up. A nursing female may have young kittens she needs to return to.
- All other females should remain in the trap for at least one additional day to recover. Continue to keep the trap covered at all times. Continue to provide food and water through the sliding door of the trap.
- Always bring cats back to the same area they were trapped.



TIPS & TRICKS

- If you're already feeding the cats, withhold food for 24 hours before trapping, ensuring they are hungry and making them more likely to enter the trap.
- If you are struggling to trap a cat using the traditional method, try covering the trap (except the entrance) with a sheet or large towel.
- If you have particularly skittish cats, you can leave unset traps out for a few days, near where you feed them, to get them used to the new object in their environment.