



HUMANE TRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS

HAVE A PLAN BEFORE YOU TRAP

- If you are taking the cat to your own veterinarian for neutering, make arrangements with your vet before trapping.
- If you are feeding feral cats, fill out a PLL Feral Cat Report and we will schedule a time for you to trap.
- For a cat not returning to a colony, please take it to the Sonoma County Animal shelter. Know the hours of the shelter before trapping to avoid a long stay in the trap.

PREPARATION FOR TRAPPING

- Get the cats used to being fed at the same place and time each day. Leave the trap unset during routine feeding so cats are used to it.
- Don't feed the cats the day/night before you are trapping so they will be hungry. Be sure to notify others who may feed to not feed that day.
- Plan to trap the cats the night before surgery, which allows 12 hours prior to surgery.
- Prepare an area where the trap (with cat) will be kept before the appointment. A garage or other sheltered, warm and protected area is best. Lay on newspaper to catch urine or stools.
- Plan your day of trapping. Only trap when ready to take the cat to vet/shelter. It is unlikely that you will trap a cat again if it is released.
- When young kittens are involved: Do not trap mother until the kittens are located. Then, bring both kittens and mother into the shelter. Bring in any kittens as soon as they are seen – after 6 weeks they are difficult to socialize for adoption.

SETTING THE TRAP

- Plan to set trap just before normal feeding time, when you have time to wait.
- Procedure:
 - Fold 2 sheets of newspaper lengthwise to fit on the floor of the trap
 - Place a mound of tuna inside at rear of trap, against the back. If there is a sliding back door, make sure that it is latched.
 - Set trap door by pushing door in and up, adjust hook to hold door up.
 - Place a trail of small tuna bits at entry and into the trap towards the back – do not use too much, cats need to reach food in far back.

WAITING FOR SUCCESS

- Never leave trap unattended – trap could be stolen, cat let out by others, cat hurt.
- Wait in an area where the cat cannot see you but you can see the trap.
- As soon as the cat is trapped cover the trap with sheet. This will calm him down.
- Check to ensure that it is a cat you wanted to catch – release already neutered cats (PLL tips the ear of a fixed feral) or other wild animal. Check for lactating mother

HOLDING PROCEDURES

- Move the trapped cat to holding area – a garage or other protected area. Keep cats covered and away from children and pets. Do not stick fingers in trap.
- Do not feed or water cats in trap – they need to fast before surgery the next day.
- Wash and change clothes before having contact with your own pets as a precaution.
- Always have feral kittens checked by a vet BEFORE having around your pets.

RELEASING THE CAT

- When the cat is ready for release – fixed and doing well after surgery – return to the same spot where the cat was trapped. Do not release in new area – the cat will be disoriented and possibly die. Relocating needs to be discussed with PLL.
- Open the door away from you and towards a safe direction (away from a road). The cat will most likely bolt and hide for a day. Do not worry – he'll come back for food
- After releasing cat, clean/disinfect trap and carrier. Do not store trap set.

*******IMPORTANT RULES TO REMEMBER*******

NEVER leave a set trap unattended.

NEVER set a trap at night and check it in the morning – you could catch a skunk!

ALWAYS start with clean equipment. Clean with bleach solution and rinse. The cat will be frightened. Be as careful and calm as possible

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HUMANE TRAPPING PLEASE
EMAIL US AT INFO@PETSLIFELINE.ORG**