

Trapping Cats

Before You Trap

It is recommended that you establish a routine feeding schedule. Feed the cats at the same place and time each day for at least one week prior to trapping. If you have been feeding regularly already, you may proceed.

Make sure the trap is clean. Traps carry the scent of the cat previously trapped which can deter other cats from entering. The easiest way is to spray with bleach solution, let set and hose down. Let dry.

Practice working your traps ahead of time.

Let the neighbors know you are trapping, especially if you are on or around their property.

Do not trap in extremely hot or cold weather.

Plan your trapping so that the cats are transported to the vet as soon as possible. Trap in the evening and take to the vet the next morning. This is preferable since they can not eat 10 hours prior to surgery. Please get an appointment from our vet coordinator a head of time. If you do not catch a cat, just call the next morning and cancel. The vets know ferals are unpredictable and do not mind if you have to cancel.

Do not feed the day of trapping. If the cats are still not going into the traps, do not feed them 24 hours before trapping. This will ensure the cats are hungry enough to enter the traps. Continue to provide fresh water. Feed the free cats after you are done trapping.

Trapping Guidelines

Call the SNAP coordinator to get an appointment at Peach Tree Animal Hospital for your cat(s).

Get your supplies together. Include a trap, a blanket or sheet, tuna or canned cat food. You may need a flashlight.

Prepare the traps away from the trapping site so you will not scare off the cats.

Place a small amount of bait along the very back of the trap. You can use a lid or a container for this. Drizzle some juice from the bait along the trap towards the entrance in a zigzagged pattern. Place a tiny amount of bait in the middle of the trap.

Carry the trap to the trapping site, near the feeding area. Make sure it is stable. If you are using multiple traps place them facing in different directions away from each other. Set (and possibly cover) the traps. Leave quietly.

Do not leave the traps unattended for more than two hours under any circumstances. Check often from a distance. If you don't catch anything, call the vet in the morning to tell them you won't be dropping any cats off (573-442-3353)

After the cat has been caught, cover the entire trap with a blanket or sheet. This will calm the cats down. It is normal for the cat to thrash around inside the trap. He may bloody his nose. Don't let this worry you.

If the cat is severely injured or sick take him to the vet right away.

Move the cats (keep them in the trap and covered at all times) to a safe and dry place for the night. If it is too cold or hot for you, it is for them too.

Transport the cat in the trap to the vet the next morning. You may want to line your car seats or trunk with a tarp or trashbags. They don't usually urinate but there is no guarantee. Take along a small pet carrier for each cat lined with rags or newspapers and an empty bowl inside.

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Make sure you tell the vet this is a SNAP (feral) cat and the procedures you want done when you drop the cats off. Some caretakers pay to test and vaccinate. This will be your expense. SNAP only pays for spay/neuter & eartipping. You will probably have to sign something. The vet will call you when the cat is ready to go.

Feral cats are eartipped. Eartipping is the only effective method to identify a sterilized feral cat. Without an eartip, animal control could mistake the cat for one that is not being cared for and euthanize it. Eartipping is performed under anesthesia and is not harmful to the cat. If the cat is stray and not feral, eartipping is not necessary because animal control can find the tattoo showing that it is altered.

When you pick up the cat from the vet, it will be in a carrier or a trap. Please pick up both. Do not remove the cat. Male cats can be returned to the trapping site 12-24 hours after surgery, Females 24-48 hours after surgery. If the cat is stressed out and it is fully awake you can release it earlier. They need recovery time but the stress is far worse. For a cat you are keeping over night, provide food and water. Remember the empty bowl that is in the carrier? Take a stick or something long and scoot the bowl near the front of the carrier. Flip it up-side-up. Take a watering can or make a funnel from rolled up paper and pour water into the bowl. Funnel in some dry cat food. You don't have to open the carrier at all!!

Always release the cat where you caught it. This is the best part! It is not uncommon for the cat to stay away for a few days afterwards. Keep leaving food and water out. They will return when you are not around.

You have greatly improved this cat's life! This cat will be happier and healthier. Fighting and roaming will be reduced which will protect the cat from disease and injury. Females will not be burdened with litter after litter of kittens to care for.

Please clean your trap & carrier before returning to SNAP. See Before You Trap.

Thank you!!