

SPAY&STAY

Trapping the Elusive Feline

Box Trap

- Feed only inside trap with both ends open for 1 week prior to spay day.
- You may camouflage it with leafy branches that don't interfere with mechanism
- If kittens are already caught, use them as "bait" for mother cat by covering the kittens' trap except for one spot in the middle, putting that opening at right angle to mom's trap so that must go into her trap to see the kittens.
- Place trap in usual feeding location, along their usual path, or against buildings that provide cover
- Some cats knock over trap so secure it along wall or between heavy items.
- Opinions vary as to best trapping food. Some say use exactly the same food every day, other like stinky cat or human foods to entice cats. Oily fish such as tuna and other cheap smelly fish are good.
- Once cat is caught, stop feeding soft food, use only dry food to reduce vomiting or diarrhea in trap or at spay day.
- Place 8½" x 16" piece of cardboard over trip plate to ease in catching *kittens* and lighter weight cats.
- Tie colorful pipe cleaners to entry door on box trap so you can see them from a distance when the trap is set and know when the door is down without disturbing the trapping area.
- Clean traps thoroughly before returning to the trap depot.

Drop Trap

Are helpful when trying to catch the last few cats of a colony. You will need both a drop trap and box trap. This is a two person activity.

- Use heavy weight such as large ceramic flower pot on plywood base of drop trap to secure drop trap.
- Placing it on grass will reduce likelihood of cat dragging it and getting its tail or toes pinched. Use extreme caution around kittens – do not use when kittens are in vicinity.
- Cover the drop trap immediately with a large towel to calm the cat.
- When transferring cat from drop trap to box trap, one person lifts door and other person holds box trap. Align drop trap door with escape door of box trap, and hold end of box trap with your foot.
- Cover box trap with towel except far end so cat can see daylight.
- If cat does not readily run into box trap, you can slowly begin to remove cover on drop trap beginning at corner by anchor platform.

Trapping Kittens

Option 1:

- Cut a piece of cardboard slightly narrower than the trap and about a foot long.
- Attach it with tape to the higher end of the trap plate. (This allows lightweight kittens to be trapped more easily.)

Option 2:

- Tie a length of string to a water bottle and used the bottle to prop open the door.
- When the kitten is inside, pull the string to move the bottle and close the door.

Option 3:

- If mom is already caught, set another opened trap next to her trap and cover both with a large towel.
- Traps can also be set to form a covered "T"