

TRAPPING GUIDELINES

Do:

- Bring a trapping kit.
- Trap with a buddy (especially at night).
- Practice working your traps ahead of time.
- Cover the trap with a dark towel or blanket.
- Talk to neighbors about your plans to trap.
- Watch ACA's "*Trap-Neuter-Return: A Humane Approach to Feral Cat Control*" training video for information on how to trap.
- Post flyers in your neighborhood asking for volunteers to help with TNR.
- Be creative – use every trick you can think of!
- Organize a feeding schedule ahead of time.
- Always provide fresh water daily (even when you're withholding food).
- Put out enough traps at a time. If your goal is to trap a colony of 20 cats, then set 25 traps on your first attempt.
- Wear thick gloves while carrying cats in traps.
- Prepare traps at a distance away from the actual trapping site. Loud noises and quick motions at the trapping site will scare cats away.
- Bring several large pop-top cans of tuna, mackerel, sardines or other smelly bait, preferably oil packed.
- Plan your trapping session so that the cats are transported to the vet as soon as possible. Avoid an overnight stay in the trap prior to your trip to the vet, if possible.
- TNR the cats at your apartment complex now – even if they must be relocated eventually. The more births you prevent, the easier it will be to find relocation sites.
- Think about how you will manage the adoptions of stray/tame cats or kittens.

DON'T:

- Get emotional.
- Argue with people who don't support your efforts.
- Trap on a hillside.
- Withhold food for more than three days. Cats can actually forget to eat if they don't eat for a few days; this can be life threatening.
- Trap in extremely hot or cold weather.
- Trap a nursing female. Her kittens can die from exposure and/or starvation in her absence.
- Release an unsterilized cat that you trapped involuntarily. You may never catch that cat again!
- Ever leave traps unattended.
- Put too much bait at the front of the trap, or the cat will get filled up before tripping the trap.
- Use dirty traps. Even traps that appear clean will carry the scent of the cat previously trapped, which can deter other cats from entering.
- Attempt to touch a conscious feral cat.
- Let a feral cat run loose in your car or home. Use a transfer cage to move a feral cat from the trap to a holding cage for recovery.
- Trap cats before making a plan. Which vet will you use? How will you pay for the sterilization, vaccinations, and eartipping? Where will the cats recover?
- Forget to cover each trap with a dark towel or blanket after a cat has been trapped. This will help to calm the cat.