

## FERAL CAT TRAP INFORMATION

NMAF recommends using Tru-Catch Gravity Humane Traps. Spring-loaded traps can cause severe injury.

Very small kittens do not weigh enough to "release" the trip plate in a medium sized trap. Kittens should ONLY be trapped in the small traps. Medium traps are suitable for adult cats only. Kittens should be two months old or older and weigh at least two pounds before trapping to take to be spayed or neutered.

1. Don't plan to trap a feral cat until you have made all the necessary plans and arrangements (housing the cat, transporting cat after trapped, reservations for surgery, plan for recovery, and plan for release after recovery).
2. Learn how to set trap before you bait and set it out (you will scare cats away if you are trying to figure out how to use the trap where the cat can see and hear you). Use canned tuna or mackerel as bait, rather than dry or canned cat food. The stronger the aroma, the more likely the cat will enter the trap for the food.
3. We recommend you feed cats INSIDE the trap with both doors open for a few days and that you place the trap near the feeding area and leave it there so cat will become accustomed to seeing the trap.
4. Trap in area where cats are accustomed to feeding. Make sure trap is set out in a sheltered area (protected from rain, snow and direct sunlight). A cat left trapped in freezing temperatures can freeze to death in a very short time. If left in the extreme heat without water, cat can die from dehydration in a short time. TIP: For successful trapping, withhold food the Friday night before and that Saturday morning before planning to trap on Saturday night before the Sunday morning clinic.
5. Plan to trap at cat's evening feeding time. Put bait directly on floor of trap (not in a bowl or can) and set a small amount just inside the guillotine door. Set another teaspoon of food in the middle of trap, just in front of trip plate that the cat will step on to release trap plate; and put the largest amount of food on the back side of trip plate so cat will have to step on trap plate to reach the food. It's helpful to cover the trip plate with a napkin or tissue so cat won't notice the gate is raised. Notes: No additional food or water after midnight the Saturday night before the Sunday morning clinic. Never leave a cat trapped longer than 6-8 hours, so time your trapping experience with these time frames in mind.
6. Never leave traps unattended. A trapped cat is defenseless and will be terrified; thrashing around inside trap can cause severe injury. Always watch the trap from a quiet, secluded place so you can see when cat is trapped. Wait out of sight but within earshot so you can hear when trap closes. If you can't stay to monitor your trap, plan to trap at another time. As soon as cat is trapped, immediately go and cover the trap. Use a sheet or blanket to cover entire trap. Like any wild animal, the cat will calm down as soon as it perceives no threat. Cat will feel safer if it cannot see or hear you or anything else threatening.
7. Hold the trapped cat in a warm, sheltered place until ready to transport. Placing a cinder block under each corner of the trap will keep it stable and allow you to place newspapers underneath to catch feces and urine. Leave the trap covered at all times and do not leave trapped cats unattended outside.
8. Transport safely, humanely, and as soon as possible. If trap must ride in bed of pickup, place a rug,

blanket or cardboard under trap to provide traction and insulation. Make sure trap is covered securely during trip. Secure both the covers and the trap with ropes or bungee cords. In freezing weather, wrap the entire trap in a heavy blanket or layers of sheets. Drive slowly and avoid the freeway. It is much safer to transport the trap in the backseat of your car. It is still important to keep trap covered during the trip, regardless of what vehicle you transport in. Protect the seats of your vehicle with a sheet of plastic, covered with an absorbent towel.

9. Bring a BATH TOWEL and a CARRIER for post-operative recovery. The carrier should be approximately twice as big as the cat. Do not use a cardboard carrier for post-operative recovery.

10. Clinic arrival time and check-in no later than 8 am Sunday morning.

11. You will be told what time on Sunday afternoon to come back to pick up your cat. NMAF will provide you with a handout on "Discharge and Recovery Guidelines and Information" at the time you check out your trap.

12. NMAF gives each feral cat Rabies and Distemper vaccinations while the cat is in the clinic for surgery.

13. While there is no fee for spaying or neutering feral cats, donations are appreciated to assist NMAF with the medical expenses associated with sterilization procedures and vaccinations.

**WARNING:** Never touch a feral cat. Wear long-sleeved shirt or jacket and work gloves if you must get near or handle an untrapped feral cat.