

# SPAY&STAY

## Trapping Tips

### ONE WEEK Prior to Trapping

**Get the cats used to eating in the traps.** After you bring your traps home from the Trap Depot, place them outside in the cat's feeding area, unset. You can secure the doors open with twist-ties or bungee cords. Place the food inside the traps so the cats get used to freely walking in and out of them to eat. Make sure to feed the cats only in these traps. Do not place food anywhere else in the feeding area.

The traps will rust, so please do not leave them out in the rain. Make sure the traps are in a safe location so they won't be stolen. You must reimburse Spay and Stay for any traps that are stolen, per the Equipment Loan Agreement you signed.

When it comes time to trap the cats, they should be used to going into the trap, which makes the process much easier.

**Reminder:** Fresh water should always be made available in the feeding area.

### THE DAY BEFORE Trapping

#### 1. Prepare your vehicle.

Protect your vehicle by first laying down a layer of large plastic garbage bags, a plastic shower curtain, or thick plastic drop-cloth. Then cover the plastic with a thick layer of newspaper.

#### 2. Prepare the overnight and recovery area.

The cat(s) will need to recover for 1-2 days in a secure, dry, warm, isolated place. Depending on the weather, this could be your garage, a shed or your basement. Be mindful of the temperature inside the recovery area – if it's too hot or too cold for you, it's probably too hot or cold for the cat.

All cats, unless otherwise noted, will be kept in their trap for recovery. Males can be released after 24 hours from the time you pick them up after surgery. Females can be released after 48 hours from the time you pick them up after surgery. Make sure you spread a large plastic garbage bag on the floor of the recovery area and cover it with a thick layer of newspaper. You will want to keep the trap covered with a towel so the cat is not stressed. If it is cold, you should also cover the trap with a blanket to make sure the recovering cat is warm. If some of the cats are friendly with other cats from their colony, you can place traps in a way so they can be next to and see each other.

When your living quarters must be used for recovery, it's a good precaution to spray the room with a flea control product. Condo and apartment dwellers might consider putting the trap in their bathtub, which has been lined with a thick layer of newspaper. For your own safety, DO NOT let the cats out of their traps.

### TRAPPING DAY!!

#### 1. Have large towels and thick gloves ready for use.

#### 2. Line the floor of the trap(s) with a layer of fresh newspaper.

### **3. Bait, set and cover the rear of the trap(s).**

Use canned sardines in oil, tuna in oil or other smelly food to entice the cats into the trap. Create a small trail of food into the trap, which will entice the cat inside. Start the trail about 1-2 feet outside of the front of the trap, using juice from the tuna or sardines. You should also put a very small amount of food in a trail leading from the front to the rear of the trap where the bigger portion of bait lies on a paper plate or on a folded paper towel. Make sure the “baited path” uses just enough food to draw the cat into the back of the trap. Use a towel to cover the back portion of the trap so the cat cannot reach through the wire and scoop out the food. If he can't scoop out the food, he will go into the trap to get the food.

### **4. Observe the cats and the traps from a distance.**

DO NOT leave set traps unattended. Have your gloves ready while waiting.

### **5. Cover sprung traps with a towel or cloth.**

Immediately after the trap has been sprung, take the towel that is on the back of the trap and cover the trap on all sides so the cat will feel safe. Take the trapped cats to your holding area until all cats have been trapped. (Trapped cats should be observed **at all times**.)

### **6. Take cat(s) to holding or drop-off area**

Once all the cats have been trapped, safely keep them in your holding area until you are ready to transport them to Spay and Stay's clinic location at the time you have been assigned.

## **Tips for the Trap-Savvy Cat**

- Camouflage the trap with branches and/or leaves.
- Line the trap floor with leaves.
- Cover the trap with a bigger cardboard box so only the front opening is showing.
- If you're withholding food overnight and the cat still doesn't go in the trap, withhold food one more day – but no longer than 2 days.
- Try a variety of foods to entice the cat into the trap. Try putting pieces of cooked hot dogs into the screening of the back door of the trap.
- If these tips don't work, Alley Cat Allies has instructions for using a drop-trap on their web site at: [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org).

## **If You Are Holding the Cat Overnight Before Surgery**

1. **Provide the cat with fresh water as soon as possible, and, depending on when you caught the cat, a small amount of food.** Place a little bit of water into the lid of a jar or other shallow container and carefully slide it under the back door into the trap. If you have caught the cat early on the day BEFORE surgery, you can give the cat a small amount of food. Remember to remove the food by 8:00 p.m. on the night before surgery, and double check that the front and back doors are locked before you leave for the night.

**If trapping kittens under 5 months of age, feed normally until early the morning of surgery when food/water should be removed from the trap.**

2. **Check in on the cat periodically.**

Make sure that the temperature in the holding area is comfortable. If it is very cold, cover the traps with an extra blanket. Try not to talk to the cat(s) during this time, as it will only add to their anxiety. Avoid making eye contact with the cat as it might be seen as a sign of aggression.

3. **Double check that you have plastic sheeting and/or newspaper in your car.**

**Transport cats to the clinic on the assigned date, as instructed.**

**For questions Contact Spay and Stay at 847-289-4557 or address questions and concerns to your trap rental contact person.**