



Humane Trapping Guide

For any topic covered here or for questions about something not listed, please contact the Trapping Coordinator at (707) 576-7999 x 208.

Important

- **Never leave a trap unattended**
- Cover trap immediately with dark cover once cat is trapped
- Keep in safe, dry, warm/cool place until transporting to spay/neuter clinic
- Rent a trap or borrow one from us free of charge. In lieu of a deposit, we will need a credit card or debit card. You will not be charged unless trap is damaged or not returned.
- Gather trapping supplies – Trap, Food, Newspaper/Cardboard, Dark Cloth, Binoculars and a Flashlight.

Once you have trapped the cat(s), follow the below procedure

1. Triple check the trap is securely locked.
2. Call (707) 576-7999 and leave a message with the number of cats you have actually trapped and the full name the appointment is under. You may call at ANY time up to 7:00am the day of the Spay/Neuter Clinic. Call even if unsuccessful and say you want to be rescheduled.
3. If you notice any sort of injury or anomaly, make sure to leave quick details on the message and then repeat this information when you're checking in.
4. Place trapped, covered cat in the SAFE, WARM/COOL holding spot already prepared
5. Transfer covered cat to Spay/Neuter Clinic the next morning
6. Drop off time is between 7:30am and 8:30am day of clinic
7. Pick up is the same day between 2pm-4pm. We will call you when your cat(s) is ready to be collected.
8. Keep cat covered from the time it is trapped until the time it is released! Please do not transport in an open-air vehicle or play loud music.
9. Most of these cats have not eaten for a very long time. Make a funnel out of paper and you can drop dry food through the top of the trap. Never open a trap. They will get fluids after surgery so no need for water in the trap. You can do the same after surgery when the cat is alert and worked through most of the anesthesia.

Trapping the cat(s)

If possible, get the cats used to being fed at the same place and time of day. Make sure you get the trap at least 4 days before trapping appointment. Securely tie up the trap door, line the trap with paper or cardboard and feed only in the trap, no food anywhere else. Put the food all the way in the back of the trap. The day you are going to trap untie and set the trap normally. Don't feed the cats the day/night before you are going to trap so the cats will be hungry. Be sure to notify others who may feed the cats not to leave food out either.

Plan to trap either the day or evening (preferred) BEFORE surgery. It is inhumane to keep a cat in a trap days before the surgery. (If this happens, call us immediately!) Cats should not eat 12 hours prior to surgery.

Prepare the area where you will be holding the cat in the trap before your appointment. A garage or other sheltered, warm, protected area is best. Lay down a thick layer of newspaper so the cat has some insulation from the ground or concrete.



Waiting for Success

Never leave trap unattended! Leaving a trap unattended is very dangerous for anything that ends up inside the trap. If you can not see the trap visually they are pretty loud and should be able to hear the trap door come down.

As soon as the intended cat is trapped, completely cover the trap with a trap cover and remove the trap from the area. When you get the captured cat to a quiet area lift the cover and check for signs that you have the correct animal or if it's already ear tipped. If ear tipped, and not injured, it can be released immediately.

Releasing the Cat

When cats are ready for release, (the morning AFTER surgery and fully recovered from anesthesia) release the cat exactly where it was trapped. It is against the law to take an animal to an alternate location and abandon them. Even if you know the cat is welcome there or there is another wild cat colony, there are certain protocols that have to be followed for a "humane" relocation. Ask us for this information if your intention is to release the cat anywhere other than where it was trapped.

Make sure the spot you pick for release does not encourage the cat to run into danger (like a busy street) to get away from you. When ready, face the trap in the direction where you want the cat to run, open the door and remove the cover. The cat will most likely bolt immediately out of the container. If it is confused or frightened, just give it time. It will eventually leave the confines of the trap. If after several minutes it needs some encouragement, you can slightly tap the back or tilt it a bit. Do NOT scare the cat out of the

After releasing the cat, hose off the trap and disinfect them with 50% bleach and 50% water. Never store traps in the "set" position (door open). Animals may wander into even un-baited traps and starve to death.

If you're a visual learner, please take the time to watch videos on how to humanely trap a cat. How to humane string trap a cat. How to humanely drop trap a cat. These three types of trapping will ensure you get every cat.