



TNR Tips and Tricks

April 2021

- *How long should a trapped cat reside in cage, prior to surgery?* 2 Days is the recommended maximum time. Overnight is best.
- *What do you do if cat owner does not want cats returned to their property?* If you remove them, others will typically move in, (the vacuum effect). If they absolutely need to be removed, you can work with a barn cat program, but cats need to be fixed first. This can be a long process and not really successful in many cases because you're separating them from everything familiar. Returning them home is the best practice.
- Make sure cat owners feed on a regular schedule (morning, noon, or night). Pull all food 24 hours from regular time. Do not feed free choice.
- Bait is harder to smell in cold weather. Using a combination of tuna and a non fish flavor in cage, plus near the front of trap place a new pieces of dry food or tasty treasures, temptations. About 3 pieces in a little paper boat in front of trap. Cats like the dry food and will investigate, smell the trap and go inside.
- Leave the back of trap uncovered. They are more likely to go inside if they think it's a tunnel.
- *When is the best time to trap a cat?* Early a.m. or dusk is the best time. Consistency of their feeding schedule is most important.
- Line trap with newspaper or potty pads to soften wire
- Inspect traps before placing to insure twist ties or zip ties are secure. Cats have escaped with loose or missing ties.
- Test trigger mechanism and adjust if necessary.
- Cover trap with towel after placing. If not placing traps in shelters such as garage, shed, barn, in inclement weather, placing a large garbage bag or pet/horse feed bag underneath the trap and another under towel will keep the cat more comfortable until being placed in vehicle. You can reuse these bags in your vehicle if necessary.
- Spraying traps with a pheromone spray such as "Comfort Zone" will create a calm environment.