

MCSPCA Trap/Neuter/Release Program

Trapping Tips

Before You Trap

Familiarize yourself with the Trap-Neuter-Return process and plan your trapping day in advance. Throughout all of your trapping endeavors, plan ahead to ensure the safety and well-being of the cats and reduce your own stress.

- Coordinate with other caregivers who may be feeding the cats, and prepare the cats for trapping by feeding on a schedule and in a designated feeding area.
- Assess the colony to see how many cats need to be trapped.
- Determine a safe, temperature-controlled location where you will be able to hold the cats after surgery while they recover.
- Gather and prepare all of the appropriate equipment and understand how it all works ahead of time—and practice! It is important to test all traps, to ensure that the trip plate works.
- Withhold food 24 hours before trapping, and you are ready to start trapping.

Trapping

- On the day-of, prepare the traps by lining the bottom with newspaper, tagging with a location description, and baiting.
- Set the traps and watch them from afar.
- Once a cat is trapped, cover the trap - this will help keep the cat calm.
- Ahead of time, learn how to deal with particularly hard-to-trap cats.
- Never leave a trap unattended
- Use stinky cat food such as, wet canned food, tuna fish, sardines or mackerel to bait the trap. (Kentucky Fried Chicken may also be used for tough cats)
- Place a sheet over the trap once it is set, the sheet will help calm the cat down once it is trapped.

Post-Surgery

- Transport the cats safely back to your secure, indoor location where cats will be in a temperature-controlled environment, dry, and away from danger.
- Monitor the cats for any illness.
- For your safety and the cats keep them in their covered cages at all times.
- Feed the cats eight hours or so after surgery.
- Return the cats to the exact location where they were trapped.
- Clean the traps.

Feeding Stations

- Provide adequate food and water for the cats on a regular basis, year-round. Feed during daylight hours for your safety and so that you can easily assess the members of the colony. We recommend feeding colony cats at dawn and dusk.
- Some colonies find shelter for themselves in a shed or under a building where their safety is uncertain. You might want to consider building a shelter for the cats. It can keep them safe from the elements and help you control their location and deter them from neighbors' properties.