

## Trapping Tips

1. When you are ready to bait the trap, line the bottom of the trap with a piece of cardboard that is cut a little smaller than the width of the trap, and which extends from the front of the trap, all the way to the back. It should bow over the trip plate, so that it is covered. Or, you can use an old hand towel or dish towel to line the bottom of the trap. (I personally prefer to use the hand towel, as it feels softer on the cat's feet.)
2. Be sure to withhold food for 24 hours before trapping so the cats will be hungry.
3. Use smelly cat food, such as wet canned food, tuna fish, or jack mackerel, to bait the trap. Put it all the way to the back of the trap. Drizzle a tiny trail of food from the dish to the front of the trap. The smell entices the cat, and he will nibble the food while walking into the trap.
4. For about five days before you actually trap the cat, tie the trap open and feed him inside of it. (Bungee cords or bread ties work well for holding the trap open.) This way he will be used to going in and out of the trap freely without being afraid. Then when you are ready to trap him, untie the trap and set it normally.
5. Always keep the trap covered with a towel. Even when you first bait it, put a towel over the trap, leaving the back open so air can circulate through. This creates a kind of "dark cave" effect that interests the cat.
6. For hard to trap cats, use the "Hidey Hole" trick. Open up both ends of a cardboard box. Make sure the box is big enough to fit the open end of the trap into. Bait the trap as indicated in numbers 1-3 above. Then, put the open end of the trap into one side of the open cardboard box. Trail a little bit of food on the bottom of the cardboard box. Again, this entices the cat to go into the box, and walk straight through to the trap. Make sure that the towel covering the trap also covers the opening where the trap goes into the cardboard box.
7. When transporting ferals in traps, be sure to line the seats of your vehicle with plastic garbage bags, or a plastic tarp like you can buy at Walmart for a few bucks. This is just in case the cat pees during transport. Your seats will be protected by the plastic.

## Aftercare

1. When you pick up your feral cat(s) at the vet, bring him back to a safe place for recovery, such as in a garage or a spare bathroom.
2. Keep him in the trap with the towel covering the trap so that he stays as calm as possible. Do not open the trap at all.
3. Hold him overnight so that he has a chance to completely wake up from the anesthesia before release. If you let him go too early, he could still be woozy and stumble around and could potentially get hurt.
4. Sometimes it might be necessary to hold a cat an extra day, such as if the feral is a lactating mother and may take more time to be completely awake and alert. In that case, if you want to try and get a little food and water in the trap, proceed with extreme caution. Only open the trap a tiny bit on the end to slide in the food and water, so there is less of a chance for the cat to get out.