



SPCA
HAMILTON/
BURLINGTON

TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN (TNR) PROGRAM

Trapping Colony Cats-What caregivers and volunteers need to know:

Getting Ready to Trap

- Let your neighbors know that you are trapping and why. This avoids trapping owned cats.
- Have a confirmed surgery date prior to setting your traps
- Traps are available from the HBSPCA trap bank with a deposit of \$20

Preparing the Cats

- Cats must be on scheduled feeding twice daily for at least two weeks prior to trapping.
- Keep feeding areas clean; this will prevent attracting wildlife and keep community clean.
- Cats must be hungry. Withhold food 24 hours before setting trap. Use something with a strong odor, such as tuna or wet cat food, to attract the cats into the trap. Remember in winter months to use warming bowls for water.
- Set traps in a safe, flat area, against another object, for example the side of shed. Be sure the trap is visible from house or car. Check often (20 min minimum). Never set trap overnight.

The cat is trapped-what's next?

- Cover a trapped animal ASAP. Completely cover the trap with a sheet/blanket; this offers security and helps to prevent injury.
- Move trap so other cats do not become wise to an area safe from other animals and people.

Tips for hard to trap cats

- Withhold food for a longer period of time; up to 48 hours.
- Build trust by leaving a taste of food outside of the cage or halfway in the trap (in far enough that they won't get hit if the trap closes). Caregiver should be present but unseen.
- You can extend/enlarge footplate by gently laying a piece of cardboard over the footplate, then pressure on the cardboard sets off the trap.
- Create a feeding station out of trap, adjust so won't go off by using a pole to keep door open and from closing, do for one week. Caregiver can be present but not seen.

After Surgery - How Will the Cat Feel?

- Cats from the TNR program are generally released back to the caregiver the same day of surgery.
- The cat has also have received its vaccines and flea treatment, and may not feel its best.
- The cat will have been given a general anesthetic and should be monitored 24 hours after surgery.
- Keep cat in a warm environment and have a blanket over the trap.
- Do not feel bad for the cat in a trap as community cats are comfortable in small places.

TNR Surgery After Care

- Upon cat's return, squish wet cat food in through the top of the trap at one end; the cat will get enough moisture from wet cat food.
- Never give human medication to cats. Aspirin and Acetaminophen are toxic to cats.
- Cats can be released back to their colony the following morning of surgery