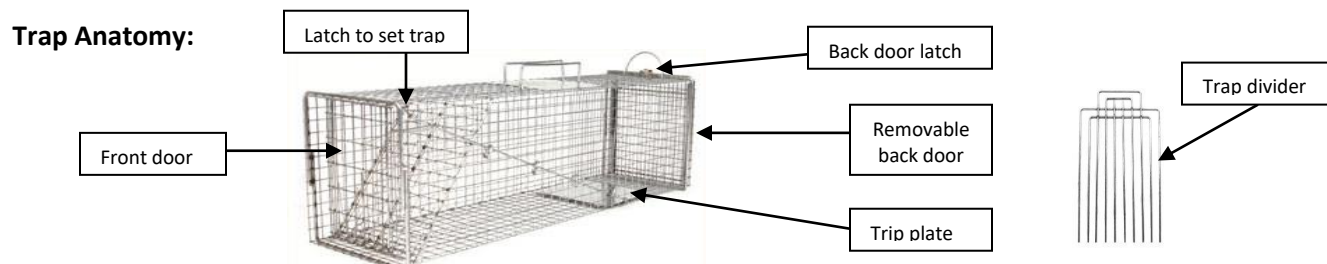


## Trapping Cats for the TNR Program

Before beginning the trapping process through FFF, please make sure to read our separate handout titled “Using an FFF Partner Vet”. You should always have an appointment made before attempting to trap any cats.



**When you are ready to begin the trapping process, please adhere to the following guidelines:**

- ✓ Take away all food from cats in the colony. Do not provide any food the day of trapping. The cats must be hungry enough to want to enter the traps. Additionally, the cats that are caught will have surgery the next morning, so their stomach needs to be relatively empty. Once you have trapped the cats for your appointment, you may feed the other cats.
- ✓ Line the bottom of the trap with newspaper so that the cat's feet cannot poke through the bottom. Do not use heavier materials such as cardboard or towels because the trip plate will not work properly. If it is a windy day, you may need to fasten the newspaper down at the sides with clips.
- ✓ Place a small amount of wet food, tuna fish, or sardines directly on the newspaper near the back door of the trap.
- ✓ Lock the back door and double check that it is latched correctly. Cats often escape due to improperly latched traps.
- ✓ To set the trap: Push in on the front door, lift, and balance the door using the small hook on the right side of the trap.
- ✓ Place the trap in the location where the cats normally eat. Move out of view but stay close by so that you can hear the trap when it closes. It may take some time for the cat to enter the trap, so you will need to be patient.
- ✓ Once the door has closed and a cat is inside the trap, the cat will likely panic, hiss, and try to find a way out. Never open the trap to release the cat, even if it seems like they are hurting themselves. Once a cat is let back out of the trap, it will be nearly impossible to catch them again. Place a towel or blanket over the trap to calm the cat down.
- ✓ Take the cat to the “safe place” where they will spend the night before surgery and the night after surgery. The “safe place” can be a garage, basement, bathroom, or similar place where the trap will not be bothered by other animals or people. Traps should never be left unattended outdoors, on screened porches, or in an area that isn't entirely enclosed.
- ✓ Cats are to remain in the traps over night and must be transported to the vet in the traps. Never attempt to transfer cats into a cat carrier or other type of cage. The cats may be released a full 24 hours after their surgery. A trap divider may be used to change out soiled newspaper or to provide food/water inside the trap.
- ✓ Never put your fingers inside of a trap, no matter how friendly the cat seems. Animals are unpredictable, especially when they are caged or frightened. They may act as if they want to be touched. But, if the cat scratches or bites someone, there is a high likelihood that the cat will end up being impounded for quarantine at the county shelter. Any charges incurred due to this type of incident will be billed to the cat's caretaker (you).