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TRAP NEUTER RETURN (TNR) INSTRUCTIONS And Low Cost Spay\Neuter Information

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WHY TNR rather than call animal control or my local shelter?

Although trapping a cat, having it neutered or spayed, and then releasing it may seem like a daunting task for the first timer, it is a skill quickly learned and gives one much satisfaction. You will prevent new generations of unwanted kitties being born and at the same time provide a place for that specific cat to go and live out its life.

Sadly, the "solution" for feral cats used by county shelters is to destroy them. Shelters do not have the resources or finances to house feral cats. Feral cats are euthanized.

Please read this ENTIRE PACKET before doing the actual trapping.

For the most comprehensive instructions on how to TNR, get this video....

Alley Cats Allies
240-482-1980 • <http://www.alleycat.org>
Order their VIDEO on HOW TO TNR

Trapping Cats: How to Trap an Entire Colony (a Trap-Neuter-Return effort shown from start to finish to help you learn the ins and outs of the process) and *Feral Cat Clinic Procedure* (a demonstration of a high-volume, low-cost, and high quality neuter clinic). Use as a reference or training tool. **\$10 each**

**If you witness abuse to feral cats or any animal:
TO REPORT ANIMAL ABUSE: NJ SPCA 1-800-582-5979**

HOW TO TNR

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

a trap, a kennel or cage (for holding cat prior to transport and/or for recovery after operation); a carrier; a litter box; cat litter; plastic lids to hold smelly bait food like tuna or sardines or mackerel in oil; cat food, bowls for food and water if holding cat for any length of time; a large towel or blanket or cloth to cover trap; a flashlight, hand sanitizers, water jug with water, gloves.

You can purchase a trap at Home Depot or Lowes. They sell the Havahart Live Animal Cage Trap model 1089. You'll see raccoons and even a cat on the box. It costs about \$45 plus tax (as of June, 2009). It is relatively easy to assemble. It has a back door, too.

It is advisable to withhold food for up to 24 hours before trapping to ensure hunger.

PREPARING THE TRAP:

Prepare the trap away from the site where you'll place it. You can hold trap door open with twisters. Line the trap with paper, but do not cover the trap plate itself.

On plastic lids (or small paper plates) place 1 TBS of bait at back of trap, 1¼ tsp on trap plate, 1¼ tsp 6 inches from inside of trap, and also dribble juice along inside of trap. You might even want to dribble some food 6-12 inches leading up to trap's opening. Remember: in setting the trap, the front of the trap is left opened and the back of trap is closed (make sure the back is closed properly or cat can escape). If you used twisters to hold the trap open while placing the food in trap, don't forget to remove them.

When you are ready to trap the cat, place the trap on a level surface. If you are setting multiple traps, place them in a zigzag fashion, facing in different directions. Cover as much of the trap as you can with a cloth/towel, but be careful to leave trigger part of trap uncovered. Then leave the immediate area. The trap should NEVER be left unattended.

ONCE CAT IS TRAPPED:

Once the cat is immediately trapped, it is normal for him to thrash inside the trap; the cover will help to calm him. You may want to also secure the front AND back of the trap with twist ties or clips, just to make sure the doors are tightly closed. The trap should NEVER be left outdoors with a cat inside it.

If you are planning to take the cat the following morning to be spay/neutered, you can leave it in trap overnight, but make sure it is in a safe environment like your basement or garage or closed porch, a place that is reasonably warm (not hot) and dry. When the cat is "stored" indoors in the trap, put multiple towels under the trap to protect floor and to absorb any urine. If possible, put the trap on top of several bricks to raise it from the floor, keeping towels or plastic underneath. Keep trap covered so cat doesn't feel so vulnerable.

If you are not ready to transport the cat for surgery the next morning or if you prefer not to leave it in the trap, you can transfer it to a kennel/cage or until you are ready. Before transferring it to kennel, place a carrier and litter box in kennel. It may be tricky transferring it to a kennel/cage so be careful or cat may escape. See below for information in regard to Low Cost Spay Neuter. Do not give food and water after 8:00 PM on the night before surgery.

When you are ready to remove the cat from the kennel/cage, you will need to make sure he is in the carrier and it is locked before taking him out of the kennel. You can use a broom handle to gently prod him into the carrier, use the handle to close the carrier door, and you can even place the handle through the openings of the kennel and parallel to the floor and across the carrier door as you shut the carrier securely.

Before transporting the cat, it is advisable that you protect your seats by covering the holding area of your vehicle with plastic/newspapers in case the cat urinates. Traps/carriers should NEVER be placed in a vehicle's trunk or the open bed of a truck!

AT THE VET:

The cat should receive the following services:

Spay and Neuter

Distemper and Rabies vaccinations

Ear "tip" (the universal sign that a cat has been TNRed)

Optional: Advantage Flea Treatment (a good idea if the cat will be recovered in your house!)

Optional: FIV/FELV testing (not recommend unless cat(s) appears sickly)

Optional: I.D. Chip

TIP: Ask your vet/clinic if they can return the cat to you in a carrier, rather than in a trap.

RECOVERY AFTER SURGERY:

You will take the cat home in your carrier and place the entire carrier in a cage/kennel with a litter box, food and water. When you place the carrier in the cage, unlatch the carrier but do not open the door. Quickly CLOSE the door to the cage. Use a stick to open the carrier door and tie it open to the side of the cage. Reverse the process when you need to clean the cage. (untie carrier door, use stick to close carrier door, quickly open cage door, latch carrier door). Yes, this is tricky and much easier with two people. Males need about 2 days and females 5 to 7 days to recover.

RELEASE TO ORIGINAL LOCATION:

Release cats in good weather only (not raining, storming, snowing). Simply go back to the same place you trapped the cat with the carrier, put it on the ground, open the door, and walk away. Once released to its familiar surroundings, the cat must be given food and fresh water on a regular basis.

Provide a shelter for the cat as well and fill it with straw (much warmer than blankets!). You can purchase a dog house, of course, but you can make a shelter too!

Try these sites!

<http://www.feralcat.com/shelter.html>

and

<http://www.pacthumanesociety.org/core/WinterShelter.htm>

RELEASE....ELSEWHERE? (like, a barn):

Never release a cat to a new area unless you have confined it in a cage in a safe INDOOR and UNDER COVER environment for about 3 weeks so that it gets used to being fed in that new location. If there are other cats already released in the area, they will be able to sniff at and get used to the new kitty and vice-versa. In this way the new cat hopefully will have adapted to its new home and will not run off. NEVER RELEASE A CAT TO A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LOCATION without following the above instructions.

NOTE REGARDING MOTHER CATS AND KITTENS:

Don't trap a mother who is nursing her kittens unless you catch the kittens too. Tiny kittens cannot survive away from their mothers for long. The BEST option is to trap the Mom and trap/bring the kittens inside and place in a crate as soon as possible because kittens are very vulnerable to prey while outside unprotected (for example, when mom is out looking for food). Also the Mama can decide to move her young at any time and you may never be able to find them.

Once the kittens are about 5 to 6 weeks old and eating cat food, you can separate the mother from the kittens. The mama would be spayed and then returned to original location. Kittens can be socialized and homes can be found for them.

LOCAL NEW JERSEY LOW COST SPAY NEUTER PROGRAMS for FERAL CATS
(Since costs of services may have changed, please check with the facility/organization)

- Ace of Spays (Dr. Cobb, Hainesport, NJ), 609-267-6770, www.aceofspays.com
- Animal Welfare Association (AWA) in Voorhees, 856-424-2288, ext 105.
The Animal Welfare Association is now offering a \$35 **feral cat** sterilization, vaccination and identification package. The package includes spaying or neutering, rabies vaccination and ear tipping and is open to Camden County residents.
Standing appointments in advance of trapping are required: visit www.awanj.org
- Camden County Animal Shelter, 856-401-1300, <http://www.ccasnj.org/>
CCAS offers a monthly low cost clinic. Special clinics offer pricing as low as \$35 for spaying and vaccinations.
- Cumberland County SPCA Spay/Neuter 856-691-1500
- Friends of Animals 856-663-1836
- Oasis Animal Sanctuary (856) 262-1222
- Salem County Humane Society (no-kill shelter) in Carney's Point, 856-299-2220
- Save the Animals Foundation (STAF), 856-218-8437, www.stafnj.org
They provide 2 separate services: Spay Day/Mobile once a month or you can purchase a STAF Certificate.

STAF Spay Day/Mobile Van

Each month STAF holds a Spay Day in a different location on mobile van.

Your cat is spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian on AWA's mobile surgical unit.

Please call to reserve your cat's space.

Very important note - It is essential that your cat arrives in a secure carrier, fastened properly OR a humane trap. NO cardboard carriers or boxes.

STAF Certificate

You can also purchase a STAF Certificate. If you choose to use the STAF certificate at Animal Welfare Association's spay/neuter clinic in Voorhees, rabies and distemper shots and absorbable sutures will be included at no additional cost. You can also use your certificate with a number of veterinarians in the South Jersey area who cooperate with STAF's low-cost spay/neuter program and accept their certificates as payment for the surgery. However, most of these doctors will require additional payment from you to cover the costs of an office visit and inoculations.

Remember to notify the veterinarian's office that you are using a certificate from STAF to pay for the surgery and ask what the additional fees/charges will be.

- SPAY USA 1-800-248-7729
- Vineland Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic (609) 654-2921

Additional training and support resources:

- in New Jersey: NJ Animal Rights Alliance, 732-446-6808,
- in the Burlington County, NJ Area:
Burlington County Feral Cat Initiative (BCCI) (for Burlington County Residents)
(609) 268-2878, www.NJferals.org, info@njferals.org

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