



## Planning a Targeted TNVR Project

### Recordkeeping

Good recordkeeping can save your Community Cats life! This will not only help you stay organized, but it will also give the cats the support they need. Keep up-to-date medical records for each cat and include what vaccinations they have received (especially rabies), when they were spayed or neutered, and if they underwent any other medical procedures. Include a photo of the cats and remember to update the photos as the cats grow older. If the cat has a microchip, document the manufacturer and the number.

Detailed records of the cats will show your community members that you are a responsible Community Cat Caregiver, and the cats are well cared for.

### Planning a Targeted TNVR Project

- Determine the number of cats that need to be humanely trapped with a box trap and add 3 more.
- Schedule a clinic with a local TNVR clinic and inquire about all possible fees you may be responsible paying for.
- Raise the funds necessary to cover all the costs involved with a targeted TNVR Project.
  - Go Fund Me donation page.
  - Facebook Fundraiser
  - Have a yard sale, tell the folks why you are raising money.
  - Sell items online, be sure to explain where the money is going.
  - Talk to neighbors and ask them for a donation towards a project that will help improve their neighborhood.
  - Talk to your church or any other service based organization you belong to. You will be surprised by the response when you explain why you are raising money.
- Pre-Trap Prep
  - Traps
  - Trap Covers- a sheet cut into a rectangle that covers the entire trap to keep the cat calm inside the trap. Always double what you need so dirty ones can be changed out.
  - Newspaper or Wee Wee pads
  - Masking Tape- to label traps with Cat's Name & your last name
  - Sharpies
  - Paper plates
  - Wet food for feeding cats while in your care.
  - Bait for traps- Our favorite is Mackerel (fish) in Brine- a large can is only a dollar at the Dollar Tree Store
  - A small container with a lid to put bait in for transport (no one's car smells good after you dump fish juice in it)
  - A can opener in case you need to open another can.
  - Folding Tables- 6ft table are best- this is for staging the cats before & after surgery.
  - 2- 6ft 2x4 wood to lay across the table so cats are elevated up off the table just a couple inches. You then cover the table with plastic & newspaper or Wee Wee Pads. Then you set the trap on top of the this so when the cat eliminates, they are not sitting in it.

- Clip Board & Paper to document each cat with Name, Gender (if known), Coat length, Fur Color, and Age. Also write anything you may have observed so it can be brought to the attention of the veterinary medical staff.
  - Plastic or Wee Wee Pads to line your transport vehicle.
  - Garbage Bag
  - Paper Towels or napkins &/or wet ones
- Trapping Day
    - Be sure to eat well the day of trapping and stay hydrated.
    - Traps should not be left unattended. Exceptions to this include the traps are safe away from predators, people, weather/temperature exposure.
    - Prep your traps- you can start with the traps lined with newspaper or not lined. If it is windy it is best to not trap with paper lined traps. The wind will blow the newspaper and spooked the cat.
    - Its best to place bait in the trap on a small piece of paper plate before getting to the place you plan to set the trap up. The quicker you can move and get your trap set up, the higher percentage of success.
    - Be cautious not to wait to close to the set traps. Most cats are skeptical and will not come near the traps while you are present. Sit and wait in your vehicle or out of the line of sight.
    - Trap Covers- This is most important- you can start with the trap covered or not. Either way, once a cat is inside the trap, cover them **immediately!** This will help to calm them down and to feel safe. **A trapped cat MUST always be covered.**
    - Once you have successfully trapped a cat, carefully pick the trap up using the handles. You can also balance the trap by gently placing your hand over the trap cover on either end of the trap. It is important that you wear gloves so the scared kitty inside the trap does not accidentally scratch you.
    - Place the covered trapped cat in the back of your car. Be incredibly careful not to slide the trap as you can injure their paws.
    - Using masking tape be sure to label each trap with the cats' name and your last name.
- Pre-Staging before Spay/Neuter Clinic
    - Have your 6ft folding table prepped before going trapping. This way you are ready to unload cats when you arrive at your staging area. Two- 6ft 2x4 wood to lay across the table so cats are elevated up off the table just a couple of inches. You then cover the table with plastic & newspaper or Wee Wee Pads. Then you set the trap on top of the this so when the cat eliminates, they are not sitting in it.
    - Label All Cats with their name and your last name.
    - Using a trap divider- [www.Livetrap.com](http://www.Livetrap.com), carefully slide the trap divider from the top down or side to side to keep the cat and yourself safe while you open the door just far enough to line the trap with newspaper and a paper plate of food.
    - **Medical Documentation- Document & log each cat with cat name, gender (if known), Fur color, Coat length and age (guesstimated). Also write anything you may have observed so it can be brought to the attention of the veterinary medical staff.**
- Spay/Neuter Clinic Day
    - Transport all trapped and covered cats to the clinic in an enclosed vehicle. Do not transport in the back of an open air pick-up truck.
- Post-Surgical Recovery
    - The night of the clinic- check each cat to be sure they are awake and doing well.
    - Offer more wet canned cat food on a paper plate.

- Be sure each is covered with their trap cover.
- Most cats can be returned to their outdoor home 24 hours after a spay/neuter clinic. There are 3 identifiable markers the cats need to exhibit before I will return them.
  - They must have eaten something and look like “Hey what the heck am I doing in this trap”.
  - They must have urinated with no signs of blood in urine.
  - Their pupils must respond to light. Dilate & Retract.
- If these 3 indicators are present, then the cats are ready for return.
- There are other circumstances that may require a cat to be held longer such as a healing wound, dental issues or a tough surgery and will need to be transferred to a crate for safe holding but this is the exception not the norm.
- Clean Up
  - Wash all trap covers in hot water with laundry detergent and Clorox Bleach.
  - First- Scrub traps out with a hot water and dish soap solution and rinse thoroughly.
  - Next, wash all traps with a 1-10 Bleach/Water solution- to be used within 24hr or bleach water expires.
  - Be sure to remove any biological matter- food or waste prior to using the Clorox Bleach/Water solution for disinfecting or this step in cleaning will not disinfect traps.
  - Let traps air dry.
- Feeding Cats while in a trap
  - This needs to be done so carefully as to not let the cat out of the trap. It is best to always use a Trap Divider- [www.LiveTrap.com](http://www.LiveTrap.com), to keep you and the cat safe while you open the trap door just slightly to remove soiled papers, replace with clean newspaper, and to feed wet food on a paper plate.
  - DO NOT use glass, metal, or plastic inside of traps. **ONLY** use paper plates or paper bowls

## Preparing the Cats for the Trapping Experience

- Many professionals advise to stop feeding the cats 2 days before the trapping day. I advise differently as it is hard not to feed the cats you are caring for, who live outside.
  - Two days before trapping day- only feed half of what you normally feed. This means half of the dry food and half of the wet food.
  - One day before trapping day- only place a small handful of dry food only in several bowls depending on the number of cats you are feeding. No wet food is fed the day before trapping.
    - If you are feeding 5 cats- place a small handful of dry food in 3 bowls. You need to adjust to the number of cats you are feeding and decrease by 2.
    - If you are feeding one cat- place an exceedingly small handful of dry food- like 20 kibbles in a bowl.
- The goal is to keep them hungry but close by so when the traps are set, they are more interested to get the food inside the traps.

## Bait for traps

- Mackerel in Brine- can be purchased at Dollar Tree Store \*\* My Favorite\*\*
- Sardines in water
- Tuna in water
- Canned/Wet cat food
- Cooked Chicken- off the bone- **DO NOT** place cooked chicken on the bone inside traps. Cooked chicken bones become soft and splinter. When a cat ingests a cooked bone, the bone can lodge in their throats or intestinal tract and have a fatal outcome.

\*\* It is advised to warm the food up as this increases the intensity of the scent of food and may make it more appealing. \*\*