



## Trap Loan Requirements

Please adhere to the following terms and conditions when borrowing traps from SpayKind.

### **Pick up coordination:**

- Contact the trap loan coordinator at [traps@spaykind.org](mailto:traps@spaykind.org) at least 1-2 weeks before the surgery date. Note that failure to provide at least 1 week's notice may result in not securing a trap in time for the surgery.
- A \$100 refundable deposit per trap is required at the time of pickup.
  - Deposits may be made in cash or by check (made out to **SpayKind**)
  - Credit card deposits may be made with advanced approval. Charges will be applied to credit cards at the time of trap pickup and refunded (minus the processing fee) at the time of trap return.
- The trap(s) are cleaned, tested and verified to be in proper working condition prior to being loaned.
- You may not leave the trap unattended while set

### **Damages:**

- Borrower is responsible for any damage, loss, neglect, or abuse of the trap once it has been loaned out.
- In the event of damage or loss, the deposit will be used by SpayKind toward the purchase of a replacement trap.

### **Return:**

- Contact the trap loan coordinator to arrange trap(s) return as soon as possible after use.
- Traps that are not returned within three (3) months of pickup will result in forfeiture of the trap deposit.
- Longer loan periods may be arranged by coordination with the trap loan coordinator.
- Returned trap(s) must be in the same condition that they were received in, working with no damage, and **cleaned with bleach-based or other disinfecting cleaners.** Traps that are not returned as such may result in loss of the trap deposit.



## Trapping Instructions

Trap, neuter, return (TNR) is a universally recognized means of managing community cat populations. Thank you for choosing this humane and effective process to care for the cats in your colony. Please follow the instructions and rules for participation below. We include these for the safety and consideration of the cats, yourselves, and consistency in our program.

### Basic Considerations

- **Do not trap more than 24 hours before the vet appointment**
- Traps cannot be left unattended, nor left overnight
- The trap weight (empty) must be clearly written on the trap. You can weigh a trap by standing on a bathroom scale while holding the trap and then subtracting your weight without the trap from the total.
- Traps must be covered by a towel/blanket large enough to cover the entire trap. You may leave an end uncovered for air flow. The covering should stay in place for transport and drop off.
- Trapped cats must be kept in a warm, dry place, such as a garage, basement, spare bedroom, or bathroom.
- Bring your voucher(s) with you at intake to the vet clinic
- Cats must be kept in the traps overnight in a warm, dry place after surgery before being released.

### Before You Trap

If possible, get the cats used to being fed at the same place and time of day. If the feeding location is safe, you may want to leave the traps outside so the cats get used to seeing them. You can prop the door of the trap open and put food inside so they can walk inside it to eat, but not get trapped. A bungee cord or zip tie works well for propping the trap door open.

**Don't feed the cats the meal before you are going to trap**, so the cats will be hungry. Be sure to notify others who may feed the cats not to leave food out either. Don't worry about other cats in the colony going without a meal; you can feed them as soon as you are finished trapping.

Plan to trap so that you don't have to keep the cat too long before surgery. Trapping the night before is usually the best approach, but you can try early the morning of surgery as long as you arrive at the appointed time. Cats should not eat 12 hours before surgery. If you trap the morning of surgery, be sure not to leave food out overnight.

**Prepare the area where you will be holding the cats before and after the surgery.** A garage or other sheltered, warm, protected area is best. Lay down plastic on a solid, stable surface. Cover the plastic with newspapers or pee pads to catch the inevitable stool, urine, and food residue.



**Prepare the vehicle you will use to transport them as well.** Plastic may be an additional precaution. But remember that you will need to use newspapers or some other absorbent material in addition. (Urine will roll off of the plastic, and that isn't what you want.)

Plan your day of trapping carefully. Remember that if you trap an animal and release it for some reason, it will likely be difficult to catch it again — they learn very quickly.

**If you are trapping a female cat with kittens,** you should wait to trap the mother cat until you can confirm that the kittens are eating solid food.

## Setting the Traps and Trapping

**Plan to set traps just before or at the cats' normal feeding time.** If you've left traps out for the cats to acclimate to them, but sure to set them to function correctly.

**Plan placement of traps on a level surface in the area where the cats usually feed** or have been seen. Cats are less likely to enter the trap if it wobbles.

**Use smelly food to bait the trap.** Canned mackerel and rotisserie chicken are very effective and relatively inexpensive. It is best not to put any bowls or food cans inside the trap since the animal can easily hurt itself in a panic. Use a small paper plate, napkin, paper towel, etc. You don't need much food to lure the cat inside the trap; a few bites is sufficient. Once the cat is trapped, it likely will not eat any remaining food, but it can end up being messy during transport.

You may place some newspaper or a pee pad in the trap, but do not put a towel or blanket in there, as it will change the weight. If there is wind, the rustling paper could be a deterrent.

Place the food as far back in the trap as possible while taking care that the bait is not accessible from outside the trap. Making the food a little hard to reach and/or smearing it onto the plate will ensure the cat gets to the back of the trap and can't grab and run. This will also reduce injury to the cat when the door closes. Some cats are very good at getting in and out of traps without getting caught. We don't want to make it too easy for them to get away with that trick.

**All traps are different. If you are not using a SpayKind trap, please check with the manufacturer of your trap for proper operating instructions.**



**You typically do not need to camouflage or cover the trap; in fact, that can scare some cats away and block your view of trapping. However, if you have a cat that is particularly timid, you can cover it with a large towel or a piece of towel-sized material.** Fold the material at the front end of the trap to expose the opening while still covering the top, sides, and back of the trap. Always cover the trap once the cat is caught inside it. The cover will help to camouflage the trap and serve to calm the cat after it is caught.

**Never leave traps unattended**, but don't hang around within sight of the cat, or you may scare it off. The trapped animal is vulnerable. Wait quietly in an area where you can still see the traps without disturbing the cats and/or check traps every 15 minutes or so if you can't see or hear the trap when it is tripped. As soon as the intended cat is trapped, completely cover the trap and remove the trap from the area.

When you get the captured cat to a quiet area away from the other traps, lift the cover and check for signs that you have the correct animal and not a pet or previously neutered feral. A tipped ear is the universal sign of a TNR'd cat.

**If you happen to note that you have captured a lactating female and aren't sure about the age or status of the kittens, this female must be released 10-12 hours after surgery so she can care for and nurse her kittens. Cover the cat back up as soon as possible and notify the vet when you drop the cat off. If possible, some vets will plan to spay lactating females early in the schedule so they can be released sooner.**

Of course, there is always the chance that you will catch some other wild animal attracted to the food or an unintended cat. Simply release the animal quietly as stated in the releasing procedures here.

## Holding Procedures

**Place cats in the prepared protected area.** Don't feed them. If you need to trap early the day before surgery, you can provide a small amount of food and/or water in a small bowl by lifting the trap door a few inches and sliding it in. Many cats won't eat or drink; do not panic. If the cat seems particularly stressed or upset, don't open the trap door; you don't want to risk an escape.

**Keep cats covered and check once or twice/as needed.** They will probably be very quiet as long as they are covered. Don't stick fingers in the trap or allow children or pets near the traps. These are stressed animals that can scratch and bite. **ALL ANIMAL BITES ARE SERIOUS! IF YOU ARE BITTEN, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION AND DO NOT RELEASE THE CAT. IT MUST BE QUARANTINED. CONTACT YOUR VET FOR QUARANTINE INSTRUCTIONS.**

Wash and change clothes before having contact with your own pets as a precaution against spreading any contagious diseases the cats might carry.

Always get feral kittens checked out by a vet and isolate them from your pets. Some deadly diseases can incubate without symptoms.



## Day of Surgery

**Bring your cats in their covered traps and the voucher(s) with you to the appointment.** Upon intake, you will be given instructions on when to return to pick up the cat(s). You will receive aftercare and discharge instructions from the veterinarian at that time.

## Returning the Cat(s)

**After the recommended recovery time as directed by the vet, it is time to return them to their colony.** Always return the cat to where it was trapped. **Do not try to relocate the cat to another area or colony.** This can lead to confusion, excess stress, and possible rejection or injury by other feral cats in that area. Cats are very territorial.

**On the day of release,** return to the trapping location with the cat still in a covered humane trap. Set the traps on level ground near where they were trapped. Gently fold the trap cover back to expose the end of the trap. Lift the door of the trap to let the cat out. Please check with the manufacturer of your trap for proper instructions. Most cats will run out immediately. If yours does not, be patient and step away from the trap so the cat does not feel threatened.

Here are a few links to TNR videos that may also be helpful:

<https://www.neighborhoodcats.org/how-to-tnr/trapping/trapping-the-basics>

[https://youtu.be/wF\\_omFE7Etc](https://youtu.be/wF_omFE7Etc)

<https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/humane-cat-trapping-instructions-tnr>