

Best Practices: TNR the Basics

You want to protect the cats - There are basic steps you must take to prepare for TNR. NEVER attempt to pick up a feral cat to put her in a carrier or trap. NEVER touch a trapped cat. NEVER use tranquilizers to attempt to trap a cat. NEVER transport in the back of an open truck. NEVER TRAP WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT! We recommend trapping the night before TNR surgery.

BEFORE YOU TRAP

- 1.- Know the TNR process and plan your trapping day in advance.
- 2.- Coordinate with Colony Managers. Know feeding schedule and designated feeding areas.
- 3.- Determine how many traps and neuter appointments you will need after assessing the colony.
- 4.- Determine a safe, temperature controlled location to hold the cat(s) before and after surgery.
- 5.- Gather all appropriate equipment and make sure you understand how it works ahead of time. Practice! It is important to test all traps, to ensure the trip plate works. Gather towels or sheets to cover each trap completely.
- 6.- Withhold food 24 hours before trapping.

TRAPPING

- 1.- Begin trap preparation away from the trapping site - line the bottom of the trap with newspaper or peepad (do not place newspaper or peepad up the sides, tape down).
- 2.- One hour before the regular feeding schedule, set the traps with partial cover, bait, and watch from afar.
- 3.- Traps should NEVER be left unattended.
- 4.- Once cat is trapped approach the trap cautiously, cover the trap completely - this will keep the cat calm. Take pictures of the cat(s) if possible.
- 5.- Gently and carefully secure the traps in your vehicle to transfer the cat(s) to the pre-determined holding area or veterinarian's office.
- 6.- Log the required information onto the Sun City Cats Tracking Sheet /Colony Manager/ Caregiver Form. This sheet is required to be taken in with the trapped cats. (found under "Forms" at suncitycats.org)
- 7.- Fill out 2 tags per trap. (instructions found under "Forms" at suncitycats.org)

POST-SURGERY

- 1.- Take inventory of the cat(s) being picked up for transport.
- 2.- After surgery, keep cat(s) in completely covered traps at all times.
- 3.- Make sure the trap doors are locked before loading the cats into the vehicle.
- 4.- Gently load and secure the trapped cat(s) in the climate controlled vehicle(s).
- 5.- Transport the cat(s) safely back to the designated climate controlled holding area.
- 6.- Maintain a calm and quiet environment.
- 7.- Allow cat(s) to recover overnight. Monitor cat(s) for illness if something seems wrong get to the vet immediately.
- 8.- Feed (wet food recommended) and provide cat(s) with water (use a shallow dish) after they regain consciousness, wait 8 hours after surgery before feeding adult cats. Kittens can be fed once FULLY awake from anesthesia.
- 9.- Hold cat(s) for 24 hours after surgery, if everything looks good, take back to the original trapping location and release. DUSK or DARK is the best time to return!

Have more questions?

e-mail us at help@suncitycats.org
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or call 915-472-4926