



Panther City Feral Cat Coalition

P.O. Box 101631

Fort Worth, TX 76185

Improving the lives of Fort Worth's feral cats

Feral Cat Trapping Instructions

Updated 4/22/2013

1. Establish a feeding schedule well in advance so the cat is familiar with it and will be in the trapping area at the right time.
2. Talk to neighbors affected by the activity so they will know what's going on. Make sure they keep their dogs/other animals inside while you're trapping so as not to scare away the cat(s). Make sure they turn off any automatic sprinklers that would affect the area where you're going to be trapping.
3. Withhold food the day before trapping so the cat is hungry enough to go into the trap.
4. Have a safe location to move the cat to (in the trap) after it is trapped and before it is taken to the Humane Society or wherever it will have surgery. This location should be out of the wind and rain, and somewhere where the cat is not in danger of being attacked or frightened by animals. Make sure it is cool enough (if summer) or warm enough (if winter). Cover the trap with blankets to keep the heat in, if necessary, in winter. Leave a very lightweight cover over the trap in summer, so the cat feels safe, but is not too hot.
5. Set up the traps before dark.
6. Position traps so that:
 - a. Trap is not sitting in water or on an ant bed or other non-obvious hazard, and is **perfectly level** to trip properly, never on a ledge or hill;
 - b. Near where feeding normally occurs.
7. Cover traps with a blanket when set to decrease the stress on the cat. Cats feel less vulnerable if they can "hide". This also lessens the distraction to other cats, if you're trying to trap more than one.
8. Bring the cat to the surgery location (Humane Society, TCAP, veterinarian, etc.) in the trap at the prearranged time, usually in the early morning. Plan to pick the cat up later in the day as instructed.
9. After surgery, bring the cat (in the trap) back and keep it at least 24 hours in a temperature controlled and safe location. Cats may have trouble maintaining their internal temp after surgery and anesthesia. **DO NOT RELEASE THE CAT TOO SOON.** The length of time to keep the cat before releasing depends on the weather conditions and condition of the cat. Females take longer to recover from surgery than males. If the cat was pregnant, she will need a little longer to recover.
10. Give the cat food and water after 24 hours.
11. Release the cat in a safe area where it was trapped.