



## Humane Trapping Instructions

By humanely trapping homeless, feral cats in your neighborhood, you are taking a step in ending pet overpopulation in Los Angeles, as well as making a huge difference in these kitties' lives. Congratulations for taking responsibility, acting humanely and taking positive action, instead of doing nothing at all. Thank you!

These instructions assume that you are using traps from the Tomahawk Live Trap Company. Specifics regarding the traps may be slightly different if you are using another type of trap.

**NEVER attempt to pick up a feral cat, particularly to put him/her in a trap.** No matter how mellow or sweet the cat seems, handling a cat that is not normally handled will frighten and stress the cat. The cat is likely to struggle to get away and may bite, scratch and harm you in the process. **Please read and follow the correct trapping procedures outlined below to ensure the safety of both you and the cat.**

### OUR TRAP LOAN PROGRAM:

FixNation loans out humane traps, carriers and equipment on the honor system. We ask that you keep the traps or equipment for a period of **no longer than 30 days**, provided you are actively trapping and booking reservations with FixNation, and then return the items promptly. If you need to trap past 30 days, you will need to call or email to get a special extension approved.

A replacement fee of \$65.00 per trap is required if a trap is damaged, stolen or lost.

We are a life-based organization and our mission is to help cats – therefore our traps are not to be used for any purpose other than trapping cats to bring in to FixNation to be spayed or neutered. They are not to be used anywhere else, for any other reason whatsoever.

Traps need to be returned to FixNation fully cleaned. Ensure all newspaper and bits of food are removed, scrub down the traps with soap and water, spray with bleach/water and towel dry. If you let the traps air dry in the sun, only leave them out for about 10 minutes and then towel dry the remaining way, otherwise the bleach will eat away at the metal in the hot sun. Never store traps in the "set" position (door open) as animals may wander into even un-baited traps and starve to death. Please also remove any FixNation masking tape ID letters (not the plastic trap ID tag, but masking tape ID letters) that may have been used at prior clinic reservations. These should be removed from both the trap and the cover, each and every time you bring the trap into the clinic.

### THE PARTS OF THE TRAP:

**The traps we loan out are humane traps that won't harm the cats. While the traps may look intimidating, they are actually very safe.** Using a humane trap is the safest solution to catch a feral cat – safer for both the cat and for you. It's also the best way to temporarily house and transport them. Further, it's both safer and easier for our vet techs to anesthetize the cat through a trap, and traps work better for monitoring the cat's recovery post surgery, since it's easier to see inside than a carrier.

There are small, medium and large size traps. You can decide what you'll need to borrow, based on the size of the cats you are trapping and what you can fit in your car.

You always want to carry the trap by the center handle, not by the ends, so you don't get scratched or bitten.

The **front** of the trap is where the trap door is, and that is where the cat will actually enter. The **back** of the trap is where the sliding door is. The back of the trap (sliding door) is how you will release the cat the next day after surgery. The **trip plate** is about three-fourths of the way to the back of the trap; this is the plate on the floor which flips slightly up when the trap is open and set, and it is what the cat steps on to trigger the trap shut.

You open the trap door by **pushing** the top of the door in and **pulling** the bottom of the door upward. There is a small hook pin on the top of the right side of the trap. This hook pin attaches to a tiny metal pole along the right side of the trap, running from the door to the trip plate. **Look for the hook pin** and pull it towards you. The hook holds the door in an open position, which also raises the trip plate. When the cat steps on the trip plate, it will cause the hook to release the door and close the trap. So to open the trap, remember, **push, pull, look for the hook.**

Again, this description is for standard Tomahawk Live Traps that we issue. If you are using a different manufacturer or model, there may be subtle differences.

When you lock the back of the trap (the sliding door), make sure the eyehole clip is up over the loop post and then securely lock it in place with the clip lock. Once the trap is locked, **LEAVE IT LOCKED. DOUBLE AND TRIPLE CHECK THAT IT /S SECURELY LOCKED!**

**If you are using a different model trap and the back door does not lock 100% securely, please use a plastic zip tie or a nylon cable tie to secure the door tightly to the trap so that it can't open accidentally.**

### **PREPARATION BEFORE TRAPPING:**

**Make sure you book a reservation at FixNation prior to trapping.** We require reservations ahead of time for all cats brought into the clinic, so we can anticipate volume and ensure we have enough vets staffed.

**Only trap the night before your appointment. You want the cat to be in the trap only one night prior to surgery.** The longer a cat is in a trap, the more stressed he/she will get. This makes surgery more difficult since the cat's muscles will be tensed up from stress. Also, cats generally don't eat when they are in a trap, so you want to minimize how long the cat will go without food. Do not trap any earlier than the night before surgery.

If you trap a cat and release it for ANY reason, it is HIGHLY unlikely that you will ever be able to catch that cat again...they learn very quickly. In the rare situation where you must trap a cat and you don't have a reservation – DO NOT RELEASE THE CAT – instead, call us or come into the clinic during check-in and we will try to still get your cat fixed that day.

If you are trapping a female cat and there are young kittens involved, you should wait until you have located the kittens so you can make sure they are 4-6 weeks old BEFORE you trap the mom. This is very important because in their first few weeks of life, kittens need to nurse every couple of hours. If the mom is away for a full day getting fixed, it means her babies won't eat and they could be in jeopardy. Waiting until the kittens are 4-6 weeks old before you trap the mom is safer for them. Also, if you wish to tame and foster the kittens to adopt out, they should be taken from the mother no earlier than 4-6 weeks of age. Kittens can generally be tamed down up until about 12 weeks of age, but the longer you wait the harder it generally is.

### ***Feeding***

If possible, get the cats used to being fed at the same place and time each day for two weeks or so leading up to the trapping. This is helpful to ensure the cats all show up when you want to trap. Ensure the feeding station is away from traffic, both vehicle and pedestrian.

Next, you are going to withhold food at that same time the day or night before you are going to trap, so the cats will be hungry.

For example, if you plan on trapping on Tuesday night (for a Wednesday reservation), do not feed the cats on Monday night. It is important that the cats are hungry the night you plan on trapping, as they'll go into the traps

more quickly and easily. Be sure to notify others in your neighborhood who may also feed the cats not to leave food out the night before you are trapping.

### ***Prepare Your Holding Area***

**Your holding area should be a safe, indoor location.** Examples are laundry rooms, bathrooms, heated/ventilated enclosed patios, etc. Garages or sheds work as long as the temperature outside is mild. If you're holding cats in a garage or a shed, make sure you can lock it securely. **DO NOT LEAVE THE TRAPPED CATS OUTSIDE OVERNIGHT OR IN YOUR YARD UNSECURED.**

**Regulate the temperature. Warm up your holding area in the winter and cool it off in the summer.** The temperature should be moderate, not extreme, at all times. When the weather heats up outside, the temperature in garages, storage rooms, laundry rooms and other enclosed areas may rise to intolerable levels quickly. Heat stroke can happen very quickly. Likewise, during colder weather, these areas may be unheated, drafty or exposed. Make sure you regulate the temperature so that it's moderate at all times. In the summer, cool down your holding area with fans and proper ventilation. In the winter, make sure there is adequate heating. Remember, if it's not comfortable for you, it's even less comfortable for the cat.

**Make sure there is adequate ventilation!** This sounds like common sense, but if a holding area is too small, stuffy, or cramped and there is not enough ventilation, your cats are in jeopardy of dying. Likewise, if you have too many blankets on the traps to keep them warm, your cats may not be getting enough air. Be extremely cautious that your holding area provides adequate ventilation for your cats.

**The holding area should be dry and also away from dangers such as toxic fumes, other animals or household pets.** Cats have an extremely sensitive sense of smell, and fumes in small, enclosed areas can build up and become toxic quickly. Also, if you're holding the cats inside your house, make sure you don't allow Felix or Fido to go anywhere near the trapped cats.

**The area should be quiet and away from people so that the cats remain calm;** however, it should be an area that is convenient for you since you're going to need to periodically check on the cats throughout the night.

**Do not hold cats in your vehicle overnight.** This is very unsafe, as cars cannot provide enough ventilation AND security at the same time. Also, temperature changes can happen incredibly fast in vehicles.

**Do not stack traps on top of each other in your holding area.** Your holding area needs to be big enough for each trap to be safely on the ground. Traps that are stacked on top of each other run the risk of not having enough ventilation for the cats. Cats can also thrash around, which could cause a trap to fall. Or they could injure each other through the bars of the trap when in close proximity.

### ***Prepare Your Vehicle***

**Protect the interior of your car from cats spraying, urinating or defecating.** Line with an old blanket and then use newspaper on top of it. Puppy pee pads make great protectors, as they have a light plastic on one side and absorbent material on the other like a diaper. You can buy these at most pet stores. **BE CAREFUL WHEN USING PLASTIC AND MAKE SURE THE PLASTIC ISN'T WRAPPED AROUND THE TRAP IN ANY WAY. PLASTIC CAN CAUSE SUFFOCATION AND/OR HEAT STROKE FOR CATS WHEN WRAPPED AROUND A TRAP.**

**Do not transport the trapped cats in the trunk of your car, in an open bed truck or in an open Jeep Wrangler.** None are safe situations for your cats. In the trunk of a car, cats will not get enough ventilation. Transporting cats in an open bed truck or Jeep is both unsafe and extremely terrifying to cats. If you don't have an appropriate vehicle for transportation, make arrangements with a friend or rent something for the day.

**Be extremely careful when stacking traps on top of each other during transport.** Traps that are stacked on top of each other run the risk of not having enough air to them. Also, urine and/or feces from top traps will go right through to the bottom ones unless you use puppy pads or newspaper between the stacked traps. **NEVER USE PLASTIC BETWEEN STACKED TRAPS BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF SUFFOCATION AND/OR HEAT STROKE.**

If traps must be stacked inside a vehicle, be sure to secure the traps with bungee cords or other restraints so they don't tip over and potentially open and release the cat. Remember, if it seems precarious, don't take the risk.

**Again, do not hold cats in your vehicle overnight in preparation for transporting in the morning.** You may think this is a great way to get your cats ready for the trip into the clinic in the morning, but this is very unsafe. Cars do not provide enough ventilation for the cats, and in warmer weather, a hot car can quickly become a hot oven.

Heaven On Earth Society for Animals is a non-profit organization that helps transport cats to/from FixNation for people who live in the San Fernando Valley and cannot transport cats themselves. Their website is [www.heavenlypets.org](http://www.heavenlypets.org) and you can contact them either by email at [spay@heavenlypets.org](mailto:spay@heavenlypets.org) or at 818-474-2700 ext. 6. They may be able to help you if you live in the San Fernando Valley.

### ***Prepare Your Traps and Covers***

**Line the bottom of the trap with newspaper.** Cats don't like walking on the wire surfaces and the newspaper helps to keep their feet from going through the bars when you pick up the trap. Fold three sheets of newspaper lengthwise, and then tape the newspaper down to itself so it won't rattle in the wind and spook the cats. The paper should extend just to the trip plate but not past it, since that is your bait area. Three sheets are generally good; too much newspaper can interfere with the trap mechanism or prevent the door from closing properly.

**When holding your cats overnight and while transporting them to and from the clinic, you will need to keep your cats FULLY COVERED at all times.**

To cover your trapped cat, use a towel, a blanket or some sort of material as a trap cover. The material should be big enough to fully cover the trap, reaching all the way down to the bottom of each side. If it doesn't fully cover the trap, then use two covers. Fully covering the trap helps to reduce the stress level of the cat.

NEVER USE PLASTIC OF ANY KIND, EITHER AS A TRAP COVER OR WRAPPED AROUND YOUR TRAP, AS CATS CAN EASILY SUFFOCATE OR SUFFER HEAT STROKE. Cats still need ventilation while they are covered, so only material trap covers should be used. Cats also often pull part of the trap cover into the trap with them, and if plastic is highly dangerous should they ingest any.

Cats have an automatic fight-or-flight response once they are trapped, and they will thrash about at first and try to get out. Generally this is when they injure their noses and sometimes their paws. You can cut down on this stressful reaction by making sure the trap is fully covered. The cover also helps to keep them calm while they're in their holding area, during transportation to and from the clinic, and while they are at the clinic during check-in and post-op recovery.

### ***Prepare Your Bait***

We recommend using tuna, mackerel or sardines for starters – they are all nice and smelly and should attract cats. Smelly, oily fish, wet cat food, chicken – all of these could potentially work. You know the cats and what they are eating, so decide ahead of time what you want to use.

### ***Get All of Your Equipment Ready***

Get together all items you'll need for trapping in an easy-to-carry box or bag. That way everything will be in one place for you and it will make trapping go much more smoothly. **See our recommended equipment checklist on the last page for suggestions on what you'll need.**

## **TRAPPING:**

### ***Weather***

You want to trap when weather conditions are good. If the weather is rainy, drizzly or snowy, you do not want to trap that night. Cats who get wet or damp can become hypothermic very quickly – it doesn't take long for their

body temperature to drop. If the weather isn't cooperating, skip the trapping and call us to reschedule your reservations. If you've already trapped a cat and it starts raining, move the cat immediately into your holding area and put a fresh, dry towel or trap cover on the cat.

### ***Setting and Covering the Trap***

Set your traps out just before or at the cats' normal feeding time, in the same area where you feed them. Dusk is usually the best time to set traps. Don't trap in the rain or the heat of day without adequate protection for the trap. Cats are vulnerable in the traps and could get drenched during storms or suffer from heatstroke in the sun. Please use common sense.

Place your traps on a level surface. Cats are less likely to enter a trap if it wobbles. Bushes around a feeding area are places where cats are likely to hide and they provide good camouflage for the trap. You can also set your traps alongside a building or house, so they look less conspicuous. You can even disguise the traps with branches if need be. Generally you don't want to position two traps right next to each other. Spread them out a little, or you can set them out one at a time in one particular spot.

If you are trapping in a public area, place the traps where pedestrians will not notice them. Passersby may not understand that you are trying to help, and not harm, the cat.

After setting the trap, you want to halfway cover it with your towel or trap cover. Drape your cover over the trap so that the top and sides are covered, but leave the front and the back somewhat exposed. This way the cat can still see and smell the bait food in the back, but the haphazard cover creates a sort of "magic box" the cat will (hopefully!) want to explore. The cover also allows you to quickly, fully cover up the cat once the cat is in the trap, to calm them down more quickly. The cover will also help to camouflage the trap.

If you are tackling a big trapping project, place some tape on each trap and write down on it where the cat was trapped, so you know the exact spot to re-release the cat (i.e., which cat goes where).

### ***Baiting the Trap***

**Take your bait food and first create a "trail" by dribbling 3-4 tiny bits of food down the center of your trap,** leading from the front to the back along the newspaper. You can also pour some of the juice from the tuna or sardines along from the front to the back of the trap, to make it even smellier and enticing for the cat. You want to make sure to place a tiny bit of food at the entrance of the trap to encourage the cat to walk in, but not too much, so the cat doesn't get a full stomach before making it to the trip plate.

**Then create a "jackpot" of food at the back of the trap. However, do not put any bowls or small plates inside the trap to hold the bait food! Instead, use this aluminum foil trick.** Make an aluminum foil square about 4" x 4" (inches) and position it on the ground where you plan to place the back of the trap. Spoon about a tablespoon of your bait food onto the foil square to create a "jackpot" of food that the cat is going to want to reach. Then place the back of the trap **on top** of the aluminum foil and food, so that the food squishes through the wire bars of the trap floor. You want to make sure to position the food/foil square so that it's between the trip plate and the very back of the trap. This way, when you go to pick up your trap after trapping a cat, no food will remain in the trap when you lift it up. The foil will be outside the trap, and the remaining food bits will fall through the wire bars when you lift the trap.

**Remember, cats cannot eat after midnight the night before surgery, due to the risk involved during surgery of vomiting while under anesthesia. Our vets will not perform surgery if they see signs of food in the trap.**

In the summer, sometimes you may encounter a problem with ants swarming your bait food. If this happens, try making a circle around the trap with either chalk or with dishwashing liquid. Ants don't like to cross either of these substances, and this can prevent the ants from getting at the food.

### ***Waiting For Success***

Once you set your traps, wait quietly in an area where you can still see and/or hear the traps but without disturbing the cats. Try to stay within eyeshot or earshot of the traps. You can often hear the traps “trip” and see the cloth cover droop down slightly over the opening from a distance once a cat has gone in.

**NEVER LEAVE OPEN, SET TRAPS UNATTENDED IN AN UNPROTECTED AREA. You should always stay close to your traps when trapping. A trapped cat is very vulnerable. There are those rare instances when a cat could get hurt going into a trap. Passersby may release the trapped cat, or worse yet, steal your trap altogether! Cars could accidentally run over it in an unattended parking lot. You could also accidentally trap another wild animal (i.e., possum, raccoon) instead of a cat, which would need to be quickly re-released. Sprinklers could go off and start showering on your cat. There are many things that could happen, so do not “set” your traps and then leave them. You need to pull the trapped cat out of the area as soon as you trap him/her.**

**DO NOT PUT THE CAT OR ANY OTHER ANIMAL IN JEOPARDY BY LEAVING YOUR TRAPS UNATTENDED.**

Of course, there is always the chance that you will catch some other wild animal attracted to the food, or an unintended tame neighbor’s cat. Simply release the animal quietly as stated in the releasing procedures below. And good luck if it’s a skunk!

### **WHEN YOU’VE TRAPPED A CAT:**

**As soon as the intended cat is trapped, completely cover the trap and remove the trap from the area.** You want to pull the cat from the area immediately, because if the other cats around see their friend in captivity, you likely won’t be able to trap any other cats that night. Move the cat to a temporary holding area away from your other “set” traps until you are done for the night.

When you get the trapped cat to a quiet area away from the other traps, lift the cover and check for signs that you have the correct animal. Also check to make sure the cat has not already previously been fixed by looking for an **eartip on the right ear**. An eartip is the universal symbol that a free-roaming, feral cat has already been spayed or neutered. See photos below:



If you know that you have trapped a lactating female, check the area for kittens and remember that this female must be released as soon as she is awake and alert after surgery so she can care for and nurse her kittens.

After you’re done checking that you have the right cat and that the cat is not ear-tipped, cover the cat back up as soon as possible. Uncovered, the animal may panic and hurt itself thrashing around in the trap.

### ***Trapping Kittens***

Go ahead and let multiple kittens go into the trap together, if they wander in. Sometimes you’ll get two kittens, or a mama and a kitten. **DON’T TRANSFER THEM.** Bring an extra trap(s) with you if possible since each cat will need

to go home in his/her own separate trap after surgery. If you don't have extras, we may be able to provide some for you the day of the clinic if we have some available; at the very least please bring an extra carrier for each cat.

If the kittens are 12 weeks or younger, they can be socialized and adopted out. FixNation does not do this. Figure out a plan ahead of time for the kittens you may trap, if you don't want them to have to go back out on the street.

### **FINISH TRAPPING BY MIDNIGHT:**

**It's critical that you pick up all traps by midnight – whether or not you've caught any cats by then – so you're not putting any cat at risk who may eat your bait food after midnight.**

If cats eat after midnight and still come in for surgery, it poses a serious surgery risk for the cat as they can vomit while under anesthesia and possibly die. If they DO vomit while under anesthesia and don't die, they are still at high risk of developing pneumonia a week later.

**If you're trapping or bringing in any friendly strays, make sure you get them off the streets by midnight and either house them indoors or in your holding area overnight.** Even if you take their food away before midnight, you can't be sure they aren't going to eat a mouse or get into some garbage that will then interfere with their surgery.

After you're done trapping for the night, don't forget to put food out at your feeding station like you normally do so the other cats in the colony can eat (especially after having not eaten the night before.)

### **HOLDING CATS THE NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY:**

You will hold the trapped cats overnight in your prepared "holding area" - a warm, dry, well-ventilated, secure area, until you take them to FixNation clinic in the morning.

**MONITOR, MONITOR, MONITOR!** Don't place your trapped cats in your holding area and forget about them for the night. You need to check on them a few times throughout the night and again first thing in the morning to make sure there are no issues. When you check on the cat, just peek in under the trap cover so the cat isn't fully exposed. Cats will likely growl, spit, hiss or lunge at you when you look at them. Don't take it personally!

**DO NOT FEED THE NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY, AND DO NOT OPEN THE TRAP TO TRY AND STICK IN PLATES OF FOOD OR BOWLS OF WATER.** The cats cannot have food after midnight and the cats likely won't eat in the trap anyway. We do give cats subcutaneous fluids (under the skin) during surgery so they won't leave the clinic dehydrated. We will also put fresh newspaper in the trap after surgery; so don't worry if they shred or soil their newspaper.

Keep the cats covered and calm. They will remain quiet as long as they are covered. Don't stick fingers in the trap or allow children or other pets near the traps. These are wild animals that scratch and bite. **ALL ANIMAL BITES ARE SERIOUS! IF YOU ARE BITTEN SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION.**

### **RE-SETTING TRAPS THE NEXT NIGHT:**

You may consider putting another trap in the same spot where you have previously trapped a cat if it seems to be a "hot" spot. Be sure to dispose of the food left on the ground when you pick up the trap. You don't want to litter or give out any freebies and spoil any appetites!

Before you trap again, ensure each trap has been fully cleaned from the night or the cat before so there are no smells to spook the cat. After you clean the trap, spray it with a bleach/water solution to kill all germs and then towel dry it off. Make sure you've lined each trap with fresh newspaper.

## **RELEASING THE CATS POST-SURGERY:**

If all cats appear normal, then the cats should be released **THE MORNING AFTER SURGERY** in the exact location where you trapped them.

**THE CATS DO NOT NEED TO BE HELD ANY LONGER THAN THE MORNING AFTER SURGERY, AS THE LONGER THEY ARE HELD IN THE TRAP THE MORE STRESS THEY WILL HAVE DUE TO BEING IN CAPTIVITY.** Even with the females, you can release them the next morning.

Make sure the spot you pick for release does not encourage the cat to run into a dangerous area (like a busy street) to get away from you. Keep the trap covered until you are ready to release. When ready, position the trap with the back (sliding door) facing **away** from you and open the sliding back door straight up. The cat will probably bolt immediately out of the trap. If it is confused, just tilt the trap so the back is slightly up and tap on the back of the trap to encourage it to leave. Never put your hand in the trap!

**The only exception to this rule is for lactating females. Lactating females MUST BE released the same evening after surgery, so they can get back to their nursing kittens.** Kittens need to nurse every 2-4 hours so we want to reunite the mom with her kittens as soon as possible after surgery, provided the mom is fully recovered. The mother will still be able to nurse her kittens after surgery without causing any problems – either to the suture area or to the kittens. The FixNation staff will advise you if your cat is a lactating female who needs to be immediately released.

**If a cat does not seem to be recovering well from the surgery, he/she should be re-checked by a vet before being released.** You can call our office and bring the cat back in to FixNation, or you can see an emergency vet if the situation is more serious and needs immediate attention. If the veterinarian has indicated there is a serious medical problem with the cat which you will not be able to treat, then you, with the advice of the vet, must make the decision on whether it is safe to release the animal or kinder to euthanize it. Untreated abscesses, feline leukemia, and a number of other serious medical conditions could mean the cat suffering a slow, lingering death.

## **DO NOT RELOCATE THE CATS:**

**Do not relocate the animal! If you try to relocate the cat, he/she will be highly disoriented in a new territory and most likely die, as he/she does not know the danger hazards in that new area or the food sources.** Resident area cats will also likely drive the new cat(s) away.

Relocation should ONLY be done in an absolute last-ditch effort, and even then, there are very specific guidelines and protocol to follow to make sure the relocation will “stick”. You can find more information about relocation at Alley Cat Allies website. <http://www.alleycat.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=334>

There is also an excellent video from Best Friends Animal Society that walks through relocation, specifically with how to construct the confinement cage. <http://video.bestfriends.org/media/p/983.aspx>

## **ADDITIONAL TRAPPING STRATEGIES FOR TRICKY CATS:**

- **Water bottle trick** -- This is a good trick to use if you have many cats with some having already been trapped OR if you have a priority cat like a pregnant female. Don't set the trip plate the usual way. Instead, prop it up with a full water bottle on a long string. Set the water bottle in the door of the trap. Then pull the string once the right cat is fully inside. Make sure you wait until the cat is in the middle to the back of the trap – otherwise you could injure the cat, or the cat could back out and never go back in. This is like a homemade, remote control trap.
- **Kentucky Fried Chicken (Original Recipe)** -- Get a drumstick and tie it to the top of the back of the trap, inside, dangling off the ceiling. This is a great lure for even the hardest to catch ferals. (If you use this trick,

don't worry about trying to take the food out of the trap before surgery, as the cat very likely won't eat it in the trap after he/she has been trapped.)

- **Valerian Root Extract Oil** -- Buy it at a health food store, break open the capsule and pour over your bait.
- **Use Friskies "Tuna and Cheese" canned cat food or chicken-flavored baby food.**
- **Use a drop trap** -- If you've tried everything under the sun and you still can't catch your cat, you may need to use a drop trap. FixNation does have a limited number of drop traps available to loan out, or you can have someone build it for you. To see what a drop trap is and how it works, check out <http://www.droptrapdesign.blogspot.com/>. Contact our trapper trainer coordinator for more information.
- **Try camouflage or cardboard** -- Disguise the trap with foliage, tree branches, etc., so it looks nothing like a trap. Or cover the trap completely with cardboard on all sides so it looks like a mysterious box.
- **Create a makeshift laundry basket trap** -- Take a plastic laundry basket and plop it down over the cat. "Spider" the cat onto a sturdy piece of plywood or a plastic sterilite container lid. Duct tape the whole thing together. Be sure to bring an empty trap with you to the clinic, so the cat can recover in the trap.



## Trapping Equipment Checklist

- Traps
- Towels, sheets or trap covers – one per trap provided it fully covers trap, otherwise two per trap
- Flashlight
- Bait – mackerel, sardines, tuna, etc.
- Can opener
- Spoon, forks and/or knife - for food
- Aluminum foil square - for setting bait on underneath the trap
- Lid or plastic baggie - for sealing up the remaining food after you're done
- Small food storage container – to set open bait cans in as you go so they don't spill
- Newspaper - for lining the trap or setting food cans on
- Masking tape
- Blue tape - for writing on the trap the exact location where you trapped the kitty (large trapping projects)
- Sharpie marker
- Wet wipes - for clean up
- Chalk or dishwashing liquid – to make a circle around the trap for ant prevention in the summer
- Plastic water bottle, full – for water bottle trick
- Twine or string
- Scissors
- Doggie pee pads or newspaper and plastic - for lining car seats/hatchback
- FixNation guidelines including:
  - Humane Trapping Instructions
  - Clinic Check-In and Pick-Up Instructions
  - Pre- and Post-Surgery Instructions