YOU WILL NEED:

- One humane box trap per cat.
- Strong smelling bait (a can of tuna in oil, sardines in oil, mackerel, etc.).
- A trap cover (large towel or sheet) – This is necessary after trapping to calm the cat and lessen the risk of injury.

WE ALSO SUGGEST:

- Newspaper to line the bottom of each trap.
- A tarp or plastic sheet and an extra towel to put under trap while transporting.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:

- Signs to alert any passersby of the humane project – Someone who does not understand your intentions may release a trapped cat.
- Chain and lock – if there is a post or fence nearby you can chain up the trap to prevent the traps from being stolen. This is also for the safety of the cat – so no one can walk away with the cat and harm it.

Questions?
Contact us at COMMUNITYCATS@FACEANIMALCLINIC.ORG OR 317-638-3223 ext. 113
before **you** TRAP

1. **SET YOUR APPOINTMENT**
   You don’t want to be stuck with a cat in a trap and nowhere to turn. Always be sure to have your spay/neuter appointment scheduled in advance. Be sure to know the location, day, and time of your appointment before setting any traps. The less time the cat spends in the trap, the better. Excessive stress from confinement can increase the chances of surgical complications and poor recovery.

2. **START A ROUTINE**
   Trapping is much easier if the cat shows up at the same time and place every day. We recommend getting the cat used to a routine schedule at least one week prior to trapping.

3. **WITHHOLD FOOD**
   You must withhold all food 24 hours before trapping. This will ensure that the cat is hungry enough to enter the trap. While this may be hard, particularly if the cat appears hungry, remember you are doing what is best for them. Continue to provide the cat with clean, fresh drinking water.

set your **TRAP**

**BE SURE TO TEST YOUR TRAP.** It’s best to do this away from the trapping site so the noise does not scare off the cat.

**PLACE THE NEWSPAPER.** Fold it lengthwise and place in the bottom of the trap. Make sure it’s not heavy enough to accidentally set off the trap. Don’t use newspaper if it is windy.

**PLACE YOUR BAIT.** Place your bait along the very back of the trap. It can help to leave a trail leading into the trap. However, it is very important not to leave too much. If your bait has some kind of juice or broth you can drizzle that in a zigzag pattern to encourage the cat to take the bait.

**PLACE THE TRAP ON LEVEL GROUND.**
   Move quietly and slowly. Make certain the trap won’t rock or tip. If you’re using multiple traps, stagger and place them in different directions. Try to think like a cat and place the traps where they will be tempting.

**SET THE TRIP PLATE.** Cover the trap (except the entrance) with a sheet or a towel. Walk away from the area quietly.

**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.** The cat is unlikely to enter the trap if you are standing nearby.

what’s **NEXT?**

**CHECK THE TRAP FREQUENTLY.** Do not leave the trap unattended overnight. If you’ve caught another animal, or a cat that is already eartipped, release them in that same location. Once you’ve caught your cat move them to a safe, temperature controlled environment. Keep the trap covered.

**DO NOT attempt to touch or handle the cat.** Serious injury could occur. Do not try to remove the bait as the cat may escape.

**TRANSPORT THE CAT TO THE CLINIC.**
   Ensure that the cat is protected from the weather when transporting. A cat in a trap is very vulnerable and can rapidly overheat or become hypothermic.

**PREPARE FOR RECOVERY.** If recovering at the clinic, make sure you know when to pick the cat up. If the cat will be recovering at your house be sure to have everything set up for their return. Recovery time varies based on the cat, and recommendations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**RELEASE THE CAT.** After the recommended time period of recovery, you must release the cat in the same location it was trapped. Return your trap(s), if you borrowed from the clinic or a friend.