

Trapping Guide

Overview

- **NEVER LEAVE A TRAP UNATTENDED!** Traps can be stolen, cats can be taken or harmed, or may harm themselves, or you may trap wildlife.
- **When you catch a cat,** cover the trap immediately with a large towel, and move the trap to a quiet area. Use pee pads under the trap during car transport and holding.
- **Withhold food.** Remove all food sources 24-36 hours before trapping, to ensure cats are hungry enough to enter traps. Do NOT feed immediately after trapping or cats learn avoiding traps means food. Instead, leave the traps tied open and feed inside the traps.
- **Trap training.** While waiting for an appointment, zip tie open the trap (so it won't catch a cat) and feed the cats **only** inside of the trap for several days before trapping. When cats see other cats get trapped, they start getting trap smart.



Trap training: zip tie open and feed inside of the trap

Setting traps

- **Base:** traps **must** be lined with newspaper or pee pads. If windy, secure with masking tape.
- **Bait:** tuna, sardines, Fancy Feast flaked fish & shrimp, and Friskies are all good options.
 - Put **2-3 very small PEA SIZED** piles of bait leading towards the trip plate
 - The main bait (1 Tbsp) is placed at the very back of the trap
 - Make a juice trail leading to the front of the trap (no food outside the trap)
- **Placement:** place the trap flush against a wall, plants, fence, or other objects. The best spot for the trap is where the cats are used to eating.
- **Do not stand near the trap.** Watch from your car or inside the house.

DO NOT set the trap unless you have an appointment lined up.

Holding overnight

- **Do not open the trap.** The cat can escape or you can get injured.
- **Do not transfer the cat.** The trap is fine to hold overnight.
- Use puppy pee pads under the trap in the car for transport and in your holding area.

Hard-to-trap cats

- **Are you too close to the trap?** Stay indoors or in your car with a window cracked and listen for the trap. Do not stand too close or the cat won't go in the trap.
- **Use tuna juice or bait trail.** No food on the trip plate or outside the trap.
- Is the trap against a bush, wall, or fence instead of the middle of the porch/yard?
- **How long have you tried waiting?** It may take 3-4 hours waiting over multiple days to trap a difficult cat.
- **Are you trapping early morning and night?** Cats are most active morning & after dark.
- **Try trap training.** Zip tie open the trap overnight (so it won't catch a cat) and feed the cats only inside of the trap for several days. You may have to start the food bowl slightly outside of the trap, and move it further inside each day.
- **Selective trapping:** bit.ly/selective-trapping
 - Open the trap front door and prop a corner on a full large water bottle. Tie one end of a long piece of string or rope around the bottle's base.
 - Hold the other end of the string, through a car window, inside a house, or over a fence. Put enough food at the back that the non-target cats can eat and leave.
 - Wait for the cat to go all the way in the trap, then pull the string, pulling the bottle away quickly and shutting the door.

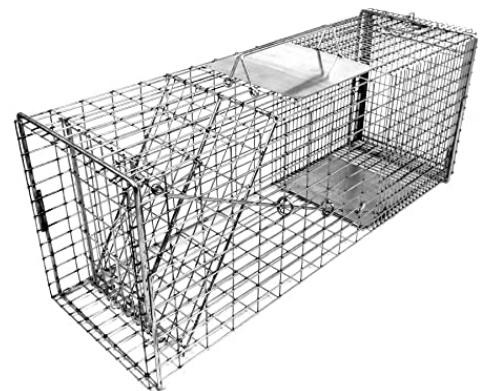
Recommended traps

- **[Tomahawk Gravity GT606](#).** Tomahawk's latest trap which is similar to Tru Catch but with a door locking mechanism so cats can't escape (discount code DCNC23).
- **[Tru Catch 30LTD](#).** Quiet door closing. Door needs to be secured with a zip tie after the trap. This is the lightest of the traps.

Resources

- **TNR workshop slide deck:** bayareacats.org/workshop
- **How to get TNR appointments:** bayareacats.org/resources
- **Join our group** bit.ly/bayareacats and experienced trappers will be able to help
- **If you find kittens:** bayareacats.org/kitten

Trap types

Type	Examples	Instructions	
Gravity Traps	Tru Catch 30LTD Tomahawk Gravity Trap	Instructions found here . Video demo . 1. Raise both rings to the top of the door. 2. Pull the door towards you and open it. 3. Turn the trigger 90 degrees counter-clockwise. 4. Lower the door to rest it on the trigger. 5. Your Tru Catch Trap is now set.	
Spring Traps	Tomahawk Havahart	Instructions found here . Video demo . 1. Lift the Door Stop. 2. Push the safety door against the door panel. 3. Lift the safety door and door panel up. 4. While the doors are in the up position, pull the trigger loop forward so it rests on the trigger hook.	
Drop Traps	Tomahawk Drop Trap	Drop traps are generally used for hard to catch cats or previously caught cats. Learn to use a drop trap and see a quick video overview .	