

# Trapping Guide

## Preparing to trap

### Borrow traps

- 13th Street Cat Rescue • [tnr@13thstcats.org](mailto:tnr@13thstcats.org)
- The Dancing Cat • [info@thedancingcat.org](mailto:info@thedancingcat.org)
- Bay Area Cats • [bayareacats.org/traps](http://bayareacats.org/traps)
- Cat Resource Center • [admin@catcenter.org](mailto:admin@catcenter.org)
- Ask on [Nextdoor](#) or our Facebook group ([bit.ly/bayareacats](https://bit.ly/bayareacats))

### Trap training

- Zip tie the traps open and feed the cats **only** inside the trap. During trap training, cats will get comfortable with the traps, which will ensure you can trap them for their appointments. Both fixed and unfixed cats will take turns eating inside the traps.
- Feed the cats once or twice a day on a **schedule**. Do not leave food out 24/7.
- Expect to trap train for **1-2 weeks** before you start trapping.
- **TIP:** Use [reusable zip ties](#) and store them on the handle of the trap.



### Appointments

- Visit [bayareacats.org/resources](http://bayareacats.org/resources) for the latest information on appointments based on city.
- Join our Messenger group for [Last Minute TNR Appointments](#)
- Book appointments at the [Mini Cat Town Spay Shuttle](#) or [Nine Lives Foundation](#) (\$125)

# Trapping

- **DO NOT** set a trap unless you have an appointment lined up the next day.
- **MONITOR** the trap when it's set, but keep your distance and do not stand near the trap. Stay quiet and hide inside your car or the house.
- When you trap a cat, **cover** the trap immediately with a large towel, zip tie the trap to secure the door, and move the trap to a quiet area.
- **NEVER release an unfixed cat - ask for help.**
- Consider handing out TNR flyers ([bayareacats.org/flyers](http://bayareacats.org/flyers)) when trying to locate cat feeders.

## Preparing traps

- **Base:** traps must be lined with newspaper, pee pads, cardboard, or [coin flooring](#). If windy, secure newspaper or pee pads with masking tape.
- **Bait:** canned chicken, tuna, sardines, Fancy Feast flaked fish & shrimp, and Friskies.
  - 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 near where the cats are used to eating.
  - Always test for stability - if the trap wobbles, find a better place or stabilize with a towel underneath.
- **TIP:** DO NOT MOVE THE TRAP. Keep the traps in a consistent position between trap training and trapping. Cats do not enter traps when they are moved around. Do not move the traps to be closer to where the cat is sitting.



## Holding overnight

- Ensure traps are **secured** with zip ties on both sides.
- Keep traps **covered** in a quiet, secure area like a garage before and after the appointment. Avoid extreme temperatures.
- **Do not open the trap.** The cat can escape or you can get injured.
- **Do not transfer the cat into a “larger space”.** The trap is safe to hold overnight.
- Use pee pads under the trap during car transport and holding.
- **Hold** the cat after surgery for one night, and release the next day.



## Selective trapping

- [bit.ly/selective-trapping](http://bit.ly/selective-trapping)
- Tie one end of a long piece of string or rope around the sturdy, filled water bottle. Open the trap front door and rest a corner of the door on the water bottle.
- 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 the trap.
- Let other cats come and go. **Wait** for the target cat to go all the way in the trap, then pull the string, pulling the bottle away quickly and shutting the door.
- **TIP:** Use a camera such as a [eufy starlight](#) wireless camera to monitor the cats during trap training and selective trapping to see ear tips.



## Setting Traps

- Spring trap: Tomahawk, Havahart



Push in the front of the door



Lift up the door



Hook the clip onto the door



Trap is set!

- Gravity traps: [Tomahawk Gravity GT606](#), [Tru Catch 30LTD](#)



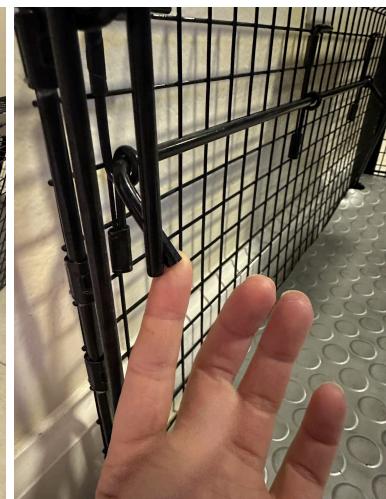
Push in the lock mechanism  
(Tomahawk only)



Lift up the connected rings



Lift up the door



Rest the door on the bar

## Learn more

- Watch some [trapping videos](#). The kitten lady offers a good [trapping overview](#).
- Take a [TNR course](#) from Neighborhood Cats or [Bay Area Cats](#) at The Dancing Cat.