



## Spay Neuter Hotline

A program of the Animal Defense League of Arizona  
(602) 265-SPAY (7729)

**\*\*\*\*Always monitor traps especially with cats in them. Don't leave traps out unattended in an area that is not secure. Make sure to stay far enough away as to not scare off the cats you are trying to trap.**

### **Trapping Tips:**

If you are trying to trap a cat for the first time or have been trying but have been unsuccessful you may try some of the following:

- **Put cats on a feeding Schedule:** Get cats on a scheduled time and place for feeding 1-2 weeks prior to trapping. This will make it easier for you to know when and where to set the traps.
- **Withhold Food:** Make sure to withhold food prior to trapping, the hungrier the cat is the more likely they will venture into the trap for food. When trapping always withhold food for at least 1 whole day prior to trapping. If that doesn't work you may have to try 2 or 3 days.
- **Switch up the bait:** If you are using one type of food in the trap and not having luck, try a different kind.
  - If you have been using Tuna in oil, switch to sardines or the other way around.
  - Try fast food especially in areas where cats are used to eating out of trash cans or areas with a lot of fast food restaurants. Fast food chicken has been known to work. Just make sure there are no bones they can choke on.
  - If all else fails try using the cat food they're used to. Sometimes if the cat is on high alert because of the trap being present, unfamiliar food might just keep them away. Try using their old favorite food in the trap and see if that works.
- **Mom Cats and Kittens:** If you have a mom cat that has been eluding you and she has young kittens you might be able to trap the kittens and use them to attract mama into a trap.
  - Keep kittens in the closed trap so they cannot run out
  - Put another trap with the stationary door nosed up against the trap with the kittens in it. Set the empty trap as you normally would, when mama goes into see babies, the door will close behind her
  - This also works if you are trying to trap kittens but already have mama cat trapped
  - **Kittens or playful older cats** try tying toys to the back of the trap. Kittens are playful by nature if they see a string or ball moving around in the back they are going to want to go in and play with it.
- **Set up the traps a couple days early so they won't go off:** Some cats see a trap and head for the hills, if that's the case try to familiarize them with the traps.
  - Pick up the traps a couple days early for the appointment. Set them up so they don't go off and let the cats get used to seeing them.
  - Feed them around the traps and slowly move food in the trap so it won't feel like a red flag when the trap is actually set.
  - Set the trap the night before the appointment, when they go in to eat as usual, this time the door will close behind them.
- **Trap as many cats as you possibly can the first time:** the more you can get with initial trapping the better. That way they aren't familiar with the process yet and you aren't re trapping already fixed cats.
- **Schedule 2 consecutive nights of trapping:** This works well especially with large groups. While the first group is in their traps recovering, you can set out the empty traps for the remaining cats and avoid re trapping the same cats.

*If you have tried all these but have had no luck ask our schedulers about using a DROP TRAP.*