



Got Strays?

Stray cats are not somebody else's problem... it's up to all of us in the community to help. Unfortunately, there are not enough resources allocated to animal welfare to truly tackle this problem at the scale that is needed. That's why we need YOU – a caring community member – to step up to help save lives by spaying and neutering stray cats.

Here's how you can **TRAP – NEUTER – RETURN (TNR)** cats on your property and in your community to help end the cat overpopulation crisis!

Step #1: Find a spay/neuter provider

Use this list to find a low-cost or free vet to spay or neuter the cat. Set up an appointment time.

Step #2: Prepare for trapping

If you are not doing so already, start feeding the cat dry or wet food at regular times each day. Purchase a can of tuna or mackerel and a small paper plate for baiting the trap.

Purchase or borrow a humane trap. A basic trap like this can be found at stores like Lowe's, Home Dept or Ace Hardware, or online. If you are unable to purchase, some organizations will lend or rent a trap. Use the list above to search for a provider who may be able to assist.

Set aside a large towel or folded over sheet. It will need to be large enough to cover the entire trap.



Got Strays?

Prepare the area where you will temporarily keep the trapped cat, like a garage. Put down cardboard, newspapers or puppy pads where the trap sit overnight. Do the same for the vehicle it will be transported in.

Place 1-2 sheets of folded newspaper inside the bottom of the trap. Practice setting the trap.

The cat will need to stay inside the trap and be delivered to the vet in the trap. This is standard practice for TNR spay/neuter.

Step #3: Trap the cat

Do not feed the cat on the day prior to trapping, so they will be hungry and more apt to venture into the trap to eat.

TNR spay/neuter surgeries are typically scheduled for early morning drop off. You will ideally trap the cat the day or night before the scheduled surgery, and keep the cat in the trap in a safe location until transporting in the trap for surgery drop off.

Place a small amount of the fish on a paper plate and place inside the trap, past the trip plate. Set the trap and place it in a location out of the rain or direct sun, on a secure surface. Dusk is usually the best time to trap. Do not leave the trap unattended. Observe from a safe distance.

Once the cat triggers the trip plate and the door closes, catching them inside, cover the trap with a towel or sheet and bring the trapped cat to your secure location. Ideally, this is done the night before their morning spay/neuter appointment. Covering the trap will help reduce stress for the animal.

Got Strays?

Do not feed the cat after midnight the night prior to surgery. Do not let it out of the trap to wander in the enclosed area.

Step #4: Surgery day

Transport the cat inside the humane cat trap for drop off at surgery center. Follow veterinary guidelines, but most TNR cases can be re-released to the area you trapped within 12-24 hours after their surgery is complete.

Hose down and sanitize the trap for future use.

Bravo! Well done!

Congratulations on undertaking a life-saving and proactive measure to end needless suffering and cat overpopulation! If you chose to continue feeding the stray, you can feel good knowing that this cat will not be adding to the severe overpopulation crisis.

Further resources

[Alley Cat Allies](#)

[Cats in Action](#)

[Good Mews](#)

[Fur Kids](#)

