

TNR IMPORTANT PROTOCOLS

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TNR CLINIC

- Always use a clinic that specializes in TNR and is equipped to handle feral cats in traps.
- Many traditional veterinary clinics lack the training and equipment to properly handle feral cats, which can lead to unnecessary stress and injury for both the cat and clinic staff.
- TNR-experienced clinics understand the unique needs of feral cats, including proper handling techniques and the necessity of keeping the cats in their traps for safety and recovery and the way they perform the surgery as these cats have much less time to recover indoors.
- Research local TNR-friendly clinics, read reviews, and connect with local rescue groups to find a trusted facility that follows best practices for feral cat care.

TIMING MATTERS

If the cat is scheduled for a morning drop-off at the clinic, trap the cat the evening or night before. Do not trap too early. We do not want them sitting in the trap longer than they have to.

MONITOR TRAPS

Traps should always be monitored to ensure the safety of the cat and prevent potential harm. Unattended traps pose risks such as exposure to extreme weather, attacks from predators, or interference from people who may release the cat improperly. Regular monitoring ensures that a trapped cat can be covered immediately to reduce stress and transported to a safe holding area as soon as possible. This is especially crucial when trapping multiple cats, as seeing another cat scared or panicking in a trap can deter others from entering, making the process more challenging.



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AFTERCARE

Cats should be held overnight post surgery so they can completely recover from the anesthesia. Cats should NEVER be released the same day. The cats need to rest and have their body temps normalized again. If the clinic does not provide overnight care, make sure you have the space to accommodate them inside the traps. Do not stick your fingers or hands inside the trap.

KEEP THE CAT IN THE TRAP

Under no circumstances should the cat be released from the trap before or after surgery. The trap serves as the safest and most controlled environment for the cat to rest and recover. Letting the cat out can result in injury to both the cat and yourself, and recapturing the cat once it has escaped is extremely difficult.

NORMAL BEHAVIOR IN TRAPS

It is completely normal for cats to tear up the newspaper inside the trap. This is often a stress response or an attempt to create a more comfortable space for themselves. Do not be alarmed if you find shredded newspaper when checking on the cat. Always ensure there is still sufficient newspaper lining to absorb waste and provide a barrier between the cat and the trap floor.

