

Triple R Pets

708.738.1438 voice 🐾 630.214.3603 fax
info@tripleRpets.org 🐾 www.tripleRpets.org
Post Office Box 86 🐾 Western Springs, IL 60558



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Trapping Tips

Prebait the Trap: Training Cats to Go Into the Trap

- Place the trap at the feeding station. Securely tie the trap door open so that it cannot close. At feeding time, put the food inside the trap. Do not place food anywhere else but in the trap. The cats can take turns eating in the trap; they don't have to all eat at once.
- Remove all food from trap before night. Close the trap for night. The next day, tie the trap open and feed.
- If there is no food anywhere except in the trap, and then the cats' choice is to either go in the trap and eat or go hungry. In time, one or more of the cats will get up the nerve to try it out. That cat will demonstrate to the others that it's safe to enter the trap and eat.
- It may take a few days or weeks until the cats are eating at the back of the trap. When they are, you are ready to trap. Remember to cover the traps with a large towel before you trap.
- Prebaiting takes tough love. But with surgery, the cats will be happier and safer than they ever have been in their lives.

The Bottle Trick: Selective Trapping

You may need to trap a particular cat to trap, such as a pregnant female or the last feral in your colony.



Find a soda bottle that's the right height to prop open the trap door. Fill the bottle with water. Put a paper cup over the top of the bottle. Get 30-50 feet of twine or cord that will not stretch and tie it around the base of the bottle. Do not set the trap but prop the trap door open with the bottle.

Put the bait at the back of the trap, and, taking string in hand, back off as far as you need to so that the cats no longer take notice of you. You may be able to sit in your house or car, with a view of the trap.

Take up any slack in the cord. Wait for your target cat to eat. Other cats may eat first, but you can catch them later. Your target cat may back out of the trap, but she will come back. You want her rear end to be 6 or 8 inches inside the trap and let her settle. Give her time to stop looking around, and to put her face in

the food, and then YANK the cord.

Be Consistent

- Feed at the same place and same time. Feed only twice a day.
- Pick up all food between feedings and before night.
- Feed only in the trap. Don't leave any food outside the trap. All cats must eat their food inside the trap. They can take turns. Tough love.
- Keep the same towel on the trap while you prebait and trap. After you trap the cat, then change the old dirty wet towel for a clean, dry one.