

# Guidelines for Trapping Feral Cats

By Lisa Koester – Founder & President Cat Tail Acres Sanctuary

People often need help to figure out how to trap a feral or lost and frightened cat. Here is the proven method I have used for decades.

## OBTAINING A LIVE TRAP

While you can purchase your very own live trap (see links below), most users simply rent a trap from the **Michigan Humane Society shelters** (in Auburn Hills, Detroit, and Westland) or from **All About Animals Rescue** in Auburn Hills, Warren and Flint. They require a deposit which you get back when you return the live traps.

1. [Tomahawk Live Traps](#)
2. [Tru Catch Live Traps](#)



*Example the Tru Catch trap style that All About Animals loans out.*

## TRAP PREPARATION

Utilizing the following methods allows me to trap at least 75% of a large colony within a day or two:

1. I use traps that have doors at both ends which makes it like a tunnel. Most ferals are more comfortable going into one as they see openings at both ends.
2. Be sure to line the front of the trap with newspaper or a piddle pad so the cat isn't left to sit on the cold metal cage.
3. If you are trying to TNR cats whom you've already been feeding in a particular location, don't put food out in their normal feeding dishes. Instead, place your traps in/around this area and put the food directly in the live-traps. The number of traps required is dependent upon how many cats need to be trapped, however when I have to trap a large colony, I set out as many traps as I can handle.
4. I use human-grade canned tuna or chicken as that will attract the cats very quickly into the live traps.
5. Camouflage the traps with grasses, bushes or other outdoor debris to make it look less strange to ferals.
6. Never leave your traps unattended. You want to be there when the cat goes into the trap. Once the cat goes into the trap, cover the trap with a towel or sheet and remove it from the feeding area. It will help keep the cat calm.

## ENTICING HARD TO CATCH CATS

1. After the easier-to-trap cats have been trapped and gone off for their spay/neuter I leave some dry food out near where the traps were set since the harder to capture cats could take some time to trap. Some people would advise against this because they feel having the cats hungry will make it easier to capture but I have never found this to be the case and if the cats go too long without food they can develop fatty liver disease.
2. When I'm ready to trap these harder to trap cats who may not want to go inside the traps, I hook the trap doors open with little bungee cords and leave the food near but not in the trap. Then each evening, move the food bowl closer and closer to the OPEN trap ... eventually putting the food inside the trap. This will allow the cats to get used to the idea that nothing bad will happen and eventually they should be willing to go inside the trap for food. Once they are going inside to eat the food, THEN you can set the doors so that they will close when the cat goes in to eat.

Here is a book that you can order on Amazon that offers some great advice/tips: "[Feral Cat Rescue: Tips and Techniques for Caregivers](#)." Published and now available on Amazon for \$5.99.

# FERAL CAT TRAPPING VIDEOS

By Carol's Ferals

Sometimes seeing someone baiting a trap and hearing the speak is more effective than reading instructions. If you are a visual type and want to see what you should be doing, here are videos that detail every step of the TNR process and what to expect when working with Carol's Ferals:

## [Carol's Ferals – TNR – Things to Consider](#)

Carol talks about the “big picture” and brings to light some issues that you need to know when discussing TNR with neighbors.



## [Carol's Ferals – TNR – Rules and Procedures](#)

Carol discusses the ins and outs of their TNR program and some rules and procedures that are necessary to know.



## [Carol's Ferals – TNR – How to Trap a Cat](#)

Carol gives all the educational instruction, tips, advice and suggestions necessary to humanely trap feral cats and transport them for spay/neuter surgery.



## [Carol's Ferals – TNR – Helpful Strategies & Advice](#)

Carol offers up tips and suggestions that will help community cat caregivers capture the harder to get cats.

