**Trapping Tips and Tricks**

**1.  Make sure appointments are available the next day before trapping to minimize how long the cat has to stay in the trap.  For example, you should not trap on a Friday if appointments are not available until Monday. Check with Nita for appointment availability.**

**​2.  Use a tarp with a blanket or towels on it to protect your car.**

**​3.  Count your traps before getting started, and frequently throughout the day. Never leave a trap behind.**

**​4.  Line traps with newspaper. This will protect the cat’s feet and help absorb urine. See video below for demonstration.**

**​5.  When baiting traps, use small amounts to lead cat into trap, with a larger amount all the way to the back of the trap. Do not put bowls or plates in trap.**

**​6.  Be mindful of where you place your trap. Make sure trap is on even ground, that door will drop freely without catching on anything, that it is not sitting in mud or water, and that there are no ants in the area. Try to place it in a shaded area, if possible.**

**​7.  Use small rocks to weigh newspaper down if it is blowing around in the trap.**

**​8.  If you will be staying with the traps, you can leave them uncovered for trapping.**

**Sometimes the wind blows around the covers and scares the cats. As soon as a cat is trapped, quickly cover the trap to calm the cat. If you are leaving the traps unattended, the traps must be covered.**

**​9.  ALWAYS cover traps when a cat is in them.**

**​10.  Only leave traps unattended if it will be for short periods, or if someone is at home to watch the traps. If you do leave them unattended, be sure the trap is covered, the area is free from ants, and the trap is protected from sunlight and rain. Check the traps frequently, or stay in contact with the person monitoring them.**

**​11.  Tie off ring side of trap with pipe cleaners once cat is inside, and make sure the locking latch on the guillotine side of trap is engaged.**

**​12.  Label the trap BEFORE leaving the area with the address and description of the cat.**

**​13.  If there is not an address where the cat was trapped, use the closest address you can find, and then detail exactly where the cat was trapped on the paperwork. When labeling the trap, label with address, but also note to check the paperwork.**

**​14.  When transporting traps, make it a habit to never cover an empty trap. Only traps with cats in them should be covered. It helps serve as a visual reminder so cats aren’t left in the car.**