

## Wrong Occupant?

If you end up trapping the wrong animal, you can release it by opening the trap door while standing behind. You may want to wear heavy gloves just in case claws lash out as you're opening the door. More than likely the animal will dash off as soon as it's able without looking back.

## Failed to Trap?

If the cat is too small and light to trigger the release when he puts his forepaws on the plate, or if he's too smart to step on it, try tying a chicken leg or wing from the top of the back of the trap. When he tries to get the meat off the bone, he's more likely to put enough pressure on the bottom plate to trigger the release.



# How to Live-Trap a Cat



## Getting a Live Trap

If a cat appears to be homeless or injured and you can't approach it, Katie's Place can rent you a trap for a fully-refundable deposit. Live cat-traps can also be rented from a pest control agency or from Consumer's Co-op in Pitt Meadows. Ask how to set it when you pick it up.

## Prepare the Cat

Get the cat used to a feeding routine for at least a week prior to trapping. Stick to the same time and location. You could feed him inside the trap with the door wired open to get him used to entering it. Once he's coming regularly for food, withhold it for 24 hours before setting the trap.

## Gather your Tools

Assemble what you'll need: (1) trap; (2) newspaper liner for inside; (3) cloth or plastic to cover trap; (4) clips to pin down cover and liner in case of wind; (5) smelly fish packed in oil for bait; (6) small dish; (7) spoon; (8) can opener; (9) plastic sheet for your car. *Optional:* (10) a few kibble, or catnip (11) Feliway spray.

## Prepare the Trap

Set up the trap away from the trapping site. Test it with the newspaper liner inside to make sure it shuts all the way. Put a tablespoonful of bait food into the dish. Drizzle a bit of oil from the food down the newspaper liner in a zigzag pattern. Place a dab of the bait food at the entrance and half way in. Don't use so much food that the cat might be satisfied before he's fully inside. Catnip or kibble can also be used to create a path inside. You can spray a shot of Feliway on the cage liner by the entrance to make him less wary of entering.

## Position the Trap

Place the trap in a place away from humans' view and traffic and on a path most likely used by the cat. Move quietly and slowly. He may be watching. Cover it to within two inches of the opening. If it's raining, use plastic. Clip the cover to the trap in case of wind. Make sure it's stable and won't rock when the cat steps in.



*A far corner of a parkade, behind a stored car, on the cats' route to their feeding station was a good place for trapping.*

## Set the Trap

Center the bait dish at the back so paws can't reach it through the wire from outside. If space allows once it's positioned, you can place rocks around the outside back to prevent him accessing the food from outside and to stabilize the trap. Drop two or three kibble on the ground leading to the entrance. Now leave the area.

## Check the Trap

It may not take long. Check back as often as you can from a distance. Don't leave the trap for more than two hours without checking. If you set it just before bed, check it very early the next morning. Don't leave it in excessively warm or cold weather for more than an hour or so.

## Mission Accomplished

Once the cat is trapped, do not open the trap for any reason. Transport the covered trap on plastic to protect your car seat and take it immediately to Haney Animal Hospital #104-22645 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge (604) 476-2525. If the clinic is not open yet, put the trap in a quiet, covered place to wait.

