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Guidelines for Outdoor Community Cats (Stray, Feral/Wild, Barn)

- 1. Outdoor cats may come in BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** You can make an appointment request on our website (<https://humaneohio.org/tnr-appointment-request-form/>) or by emailing us at communitycats@humaneohio.org.
- 2. Do NOT trap cats to bring in until you have an appointment set up and it is within 24 hours of your scheduled appointment.**
- 3. Pick-up for outdoor community cats is at 9:30am the next day.**
- 4. Do not leave any traps unattended.** Some people may try to hurt the cats, they could overheat in hot weather or freeze in cold weather or someone could steal the trap.
- 5. Do not leave traps out overnight.** You could catch wildlife and no one wants to have to try to release a skunk, raccoon or opossum!
- 6. Test the trap** to make sure the trap plate works and the back door is latched and secure.
- 7. Feed the cats at the same time** and in the same place for a few days before trapping. The night before trapping, withhold food. You can always zip tie the trap open and feed the cats in the trap to get them used to it; then remove the zip tie when it is time to trap.
- 8. On the day of trapping, bait, set and cover the rear of the trap (behind the plate).** Use canned food, sardines, tuna or other smelly food. Put some spoonfuls of food in a path leading the cat from the front to the rear of the trap.
- 9. Cover the trap with a light sheet as soon as a cat enters.** This helps calm the cat and prevents thrashing around. Do not use heavy blankets that may cause the cats to overheat.
- 10. Move trapped cats** to a secure, temperature-controlled area until your appointment (no more than 24 hours).
- 11. ONE cat per trap or carrier.** If the cats can be safely handled by strangers, they are welcome to arrive for their appointment in a secure cat carrier; otherwise they should arrive in a cat-sized humane live trap. If you accidentally catch or put multiple cats in the same trap/carrier, you will be required to rent one trap per cat when you drop off or pickup the cats so they can recover from surgery separately for their safety. (Rental fee is \$60/trap, cash or check, and is refundable upon return of the trap).
- 12. No food after midnight the night before surgery** (you can leave food already in the trap), if possible.
- 13. Every cat receives an ear tip (a universal sign showing an outdoor cat is fixed) to qualify for the \$30 price** – the ear-tip is not optional to receive this price. Rabies vaccine is also included, if old enough (kittens need to be at least 12 weeks of age). If you choose to not have the cat ear-tipped, you will be charged the normal price for an indoor cat (currently \$80) and the rabies vaccine is not included.
- 14. Humane Ohio keeps cats overnight for one night.** Male cats can be released the following day. We recommend, if possible, keeping a female cat in a temperature controlled place for one extra day. Cats that were pregnant may need to be kept longer based on our vet's recommendation.
- 15. We recommend providing cat shelters for outdoor cats when it's below 40 degrees.** While we shave as little as possible, the cat will still have a shaved area. Shelters available for sale at Humane Ohio.