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

1. **Do not leave 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.
2. **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!
3. **Test the trap** to make sure the trap plate works and the back door is locked.
4. **Feed the cats at the same time** and in the same place for a few days before trapping. The night before trapping, withhold food.
5. **On the day of trapping, bait, set and cover the rear of the trap.** Use sardines, tuna or other smelly food. Put two small spoonfuls of food in a path leading the cat from the front to the rear of the trap.
6. **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 which may cause the cats to overheat.
7. **Move trapped cats** to a secure, temperature controlled area.
8. Friendly strays can come in a secure carrier (not a box) and must be able to be handled by you AND strangers. Semi-friendly and feral/wild cats **MUST** come in a humane trap.
9. **ONE** cat per trap. If you accidentally catch multiple cats in the same trap, you will be required to rent one trap per cat when you drop the cats off so we can place each cat in his own trap after spay/neuter surgery. (Rental fee is \$60/trap and is refundable upon return of the trap.)
10. We take walk in appointments for outdoor community cats in traps or carriers Monday – Thursday at 8:30 am. If our schedule is full, we may need to hold the cat(s) over until the next surgery day. We do close to outdoor cats, for the safety of the cats, if the weather is determined to be a risk to them. You can check the Humane Ohio Facebook page before coming in to ensure there has not been a weather related closing that week.
11. Pick-up for outdoor community cats is at 9 am **the next day**.
12. No food after midnight the night before surgery (you can leave food already in the trap).
13. Every cat receives a free ear tip (to identify that they were fixed) to qualify for the \$27 price.
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.