



## Trap Neuter Return Guidelines

- Check the Town Hall are happy for you to proceed with TNR
- Inform local people by notices, or by knocking on doors, of why and when you will be trapping
- Carry out a census
- Prepare traps, transfer cages, labels, newspaper and trap covers
- Make sure you understand how to use the equipment correctly
- Schedule to get cats neutered quickly and released fast
- Allow adequate time to trap all cats
- Be prepared to monitor afterwards

### Census

The easiest method is to carry out a basic count at opposite times of an average day, then

- Cats Seen at census  $\times 1.5$  = Cats actually there
- Core clusters and colonies of cats are usually 35:65 % M:F
- Colonies will be around 60-65% female
- The female cats will be related
- There will be a small number of older males and a few more younger males
- Likely to be peripheral males not part of the colony

### Before Starting

Acclimatise! Use a trap or traps which are unset in the days prior to starting in order to allow the cats to build good experiences with the traps. This will make the whole group of cats less fearful of the traps once you begin catching. This can improve results by 50-60% and cut time spent on trapping.

### Prepare Traps

- Label all traps
- Where possible rig traps to be used manually
- Place cardboard in the bottom of the traps. This will absorb cat smells and be reassuring.
- Newspaper can be placed in the bottom of the traps on top of the cardboard.
- Bait traps using tiny pieces of tuna or wet cat food. Trail this along to the end of the trap.
- Monitor and supervise if on public-accessible land (whether legal or illegal)

- Do not leave unsupervised if on accessible land
- If on enclosed, private, access-controlled land, check frequently
- As soon as cats are caught, cover traps to reduce stress

### **Target Females First**

Calico or tortoiseshell 99.999% are females

Ginger- 60-65% are male, but if females, then there will be a cluster effect, so more than just one or two are likely to be female.

### **Using A Transfer Cage**

Transfer cats into a transport cage whenever possible so traps can be used again. The equipment has been designed with sliding doors to make the transfer hands-free and prevent escape.

Cover the trap that the cats are in leaving the transfer cage uncovered. The cats will move into the uncovered cage.

Once in the transfer trap, cover this to reduce stress.

### **Releasing**

- Check weather conditions (cats will cope fine - but public perceptions important)
- Release exactly to the same spot where caught
- Put food down at site. Cats may not eat then and there but will come back later.
- Traps should be cleaned with disinfectant after use

After release, it is important to return to the site at intervals in order to monitor the health of the cats

### **Domestic Cats**

Take care not to neuter pets without the express permission of the owner. If in doubt, assess the cats.

- Test cat by moving it to a reassuring, low stimulus environment to see if reactions in the trap change
- Feral behaviour in trap - quiet, withdrawn, retreat, defensive, quiet, (flight rather than fight)
- Domestic behaviour - more upfront, more pacing, vocal, may show aggression - fight rather than flight.
- Get vet to -- scan every cat before it is neutered or tipped
- Check for collar marks

**IF ANY DOUBT, DO NOT NEUTER!**