

Project TNR
NJ's Humane Solution for Feral Cats



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Mass Trapping - TNR your entire feral cat colony at once!

In many ways, trapping a large number of cats at once involves using the same techniques employed in trapping individual cats, such as the kind of bait used, not leaving traps out in the open, and so forth. So the first thing to do is review ***Managing A Feral Cat Colony*** and ***Humane Trapping***.

Next, we highly recommend you view Neighborhood Cats' instructional video, "How to Perform a Mass Trapping", which will take you step by step through the process. It is part of the "Effectively Managing Feral Cats" CD/DVD set. Visit www.NeighborhoodCats.org.

What follows here is a brief summary of steps to take that are unique to trying to catch multiple cats at the same time:

Length of trapping period - Plan on trapping over the course of at least two or three days. This leaves you room for bad weather and for catching those last few difficult-to-get felines. Typically what happens is during the first attempt at trapping, most of the cats are caught. But then the last few are more wary and, as the days pass, they grow hungrier and are more likely to enter the trap. Giving yourself more time allows not only for poor weather, but other unexpected conditions as well.

Number of traps - If possible, use many more traps than there are cats. This is important when you get down to catching the last few. It's much easier to catch a couple of cats with ten traps strategically located, than with only two.

Placement of traps - Initially, spread the traps out to cover as much territory as possible. But when cats start going into the traps, put a new trap where an old one worked. For some unknown reason, you'll often find these "hot spots" where multiple cats will be caught. Place the traps in areas where the cats habitually pass or by their feeding station.

Stay back - Don't rush to collect a trapped cat, unless they're getting frantic. If the trapped cat is remaining calm, leave him be until more cats are trapped. Every time you enter the territory, you're liable to scare other, untrapped cats away. But, if the cat is frantic, and in danger of hurting himself, quickly cover the trap with a sheet, whisk him away and place a fresh trap on the spot.

Don't go it alone - Have a partner with you. It's hard to keep an eye on everything if you're by yourself. Dealing with large numbers of cats could result in any number of unexpected things happening which you won't be able to adequately address if you're alone.



The goal of Project TNR, a program of New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, is to introduce Trap-Neuter-Return to communities as the humane, effective and cost-effective method of controlling feral cat populations. Trap-Neuter-Return is a comprehensive program that will result in lower animal control costs, fewer to no births, reduction of nuisance complaints by residents and the alleviation of public health concerns.

Spay/Neuter - Working with a large number of cats requires you to be well organized. As cats are trapped, put a label on the trap with a number (and a brief description of the location, if you're trapping at multiple sites). On a separate sheet of paper, write down the trap number and a brief description of the cat. When you bring the cats in to be neutered, also have clear labels attached to the trap with any special instructions or notes, such as "adoptable - don't eartip," "limping on front paw," or the like.

Caring for Cats Held in Traps - See *Managing a Feral Cat Colony* for how to care for the cats while they're being confined before and after surgery.