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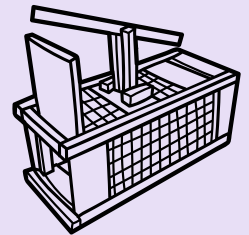
COLONY COMMUNITY CAT CAREGIVERS

TRAINING YOUR COMMUNITY CAT TO BE COMFORTABLE GOING INTO A TRAP

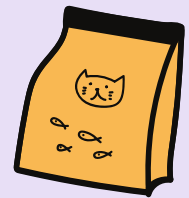
Health monitoring is a vital part of colony care. It is important that caregivers monitor colony cats for health issues such as abscesses, wounds, severe dental disease, etc. Getting the cats in your colony comfortable with traps is recommended so that if you need to trap them due to an injury or for a checkup you can easily contain them and get them the care they need.

Here are steps for getting your colony comfortable with having a trap present and with going into a trap so that when they are injured or otherwise need to be seen, it is less stressful for you and the cat.

1. Secure the front door of the trap in a raised position so the door will not be triggered to close. (The trap should remain like this throughout all the steps.) You can run a stick through the sides of the trap to block the door from falling or use a twist tie or similar item to tie it in place. During training, line the bottom of the trap with a fleece blanket and a piece of cardboard so that the bottom is more comfortable and inviting for the cats. You can also cover the trap with a leaf lawn paper bag or blanket to make it more inviting.



2. Leave a yummy treat on a plate on the ground a foot or two away from the trap. I recommend feeding your cats on a schedule but using a separate yummy treat for this exercise (churu, cooked cut-up chicken, tuna fish, etc.)



3. Gradually put the treat closer and closer to the trap until it's at the edge of the trap. Finally, feed your cats the treat inside the trap.

4. Once the cats are used to the trap, remove it and then occasionally bring it out and feed them their treats inside it.



Remember to go at a pace the cats are comfortable with. If the cat is hesitant to eat, increase the distance from the trap and start from there. Begin this process before you need the trap.