



Catpassionatevillage.org \* Facebook.com/catpassionatevillage \* Ph. 813-215-5421

## CATpassionate Village's Mission

To build an effective and sustainable community of feral cat caregivers in the greater Lutz area through education, tools and support that help end the overpopulation and suffering of homeless cats.

*It's been said that if you want to save 100 cats, get one spayed.*

## How To's of TNVR

How to begin a feral cat Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) effort with CATpassionate Village support:

1. **Make spay/neuter-vaccinate reservation.** The Humane Society of Tampa Bay ([tnvr@humanesocietytampa.org](mailto:tnvr@humanesocietytampa.org)) requires reservations for their Monday spay/neuter-vaccinate clinics. Harmony Vet Care does not require reservations and accepts cats most days of the week (Monday through Saturday) between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.
2. **Get a Tru-Catch trap.** Borrow a Tru-Catch trap or if you feel like you will have a continuous need to trap feral cats, request that CATpassionate Village purchase a trap for you. Tru-Catch traps are the preferred traps for TNVR for a variety of reasons and available through Amazon or directly through Tru-Catch. The front door/back door system offers greater flexibility and less opportunities for feral cats to injure themselves.
3. **Make sure your cat(s) is hungry.** It's best to trap when the cat(s) is hungry—before morning or evening feedings.
4. **Line the trap with cardboard.** You will want to line the traps with cardboard to prevent the cat's feet from getting injured and becoming fatigued on the metal bottom.
5. **Bait the trap.** Use smelly fish food as bait, such as tuna or mackerel. Put a very small bowl of bait at the back of the trap, making sure it will not interfere with the trip plate collapsing to the bottom of the trap. Then have a line of bait on the cardboard leading from the front of the trap to the back of the trap.
6. **Set the trap.** Be sure the back door of the trap is in the lock position. Then, lift the rings on the front door, lift the door, and pull the lever in the upper left corner so the front door remains open. If you are not confident in setting the trap, Google "How to trap a feral cat." There are many videos that can help guide you. Spay/neuter clinics will only accept one cat to a trap.
7. **IMPORTANT.** Once you've set the trap, never leave it unattended. A cat becomes very vulnerable to injury or worse if left unattended. Also, don't set the trap in a sunny place or on hot pavement. The metal on the trap can conduct heat and the cat's paws can burn and cause heat distress. You'll want to keep your distance but keep a watchful eye.
8. **Cover trapped cat.** Once a cat has been trapped, cover the trap with a fabric that is very light and breathable, preferably something cotton and never a towel. The cat will calm down once covered.
9. **Holding and recovering in trap.** You'll want to place the trap on some bricks to elevate the trap so that if the cat pees or poos it can go through the trap. You'll want to put pee pads or



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newspaper beneath the trap. The cardboard lining the trap will make it easy to pull out soiled liner and replace it with more cardboard. It's best if you can cover the cardboard with a pee pad.

10. **Optional holding and recovering method . . . Transfer cat to kennel.** If you are comfortable doing so and have a large kennel, you may want to consider transferring the trapped cat to a kennel for comfort and sanitation purposes, particularly if the cat has to be in a trap for a period of time before being delivered to the spay/neuter clinic. The kennel should be covered with a sheet and have a litterbox, food, water and sleeping box/tub. A large cardboard template (has a cut-out the size of the trap opening) can be used. Place the cardboard template over the front of the kennel, line-up the trap to the cut-out, lift the back door of the trap so the cat can transfer. Watch carefully for the cat to go to the back of the kennel, close the kennel door, then begin sliding the template so that the kennel door can be fully closed. Have the door of the kennel fully closed before pulling the cardboard out.
11. **Optional holding and recovering method. . . transfer cat to trap for transport to clinic.** You will transfer the cat from the kennel to the trap for transport to the spay/neuter clinic. You'll want to have the trap cover over the top of the trap, but leave the back of the trap uncovered so the cat may think it is not a closed space. Put the back door of the trap against the cardboard template and lift it. Sometimes cats can be reluctant to transfer, but a water squirt bottle can be a useful tool to encourage them to move to the trap.
12. **Fill out the spay/neuter forms.** It's helpful to fill out the forms before arriving for drop-off—just makes the process go faster. Harmony Vet Care has their form online. You can ask Sharon Espinola, president of CATpassionate Village, for Humane Society forms. These forms are also available when you drop-off.
13. **Drop-off/pick-up.** Cats need to be dropped off between at 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on Mondays at Humane Society of Tampa Bay and 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. at Harmony Vet Care most days of the week (Monday through Saturday). Pick up at the Humane Society is 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and at Harmony at 4 p.m. You may have to wait a while at Harmony for pick-up.

### Spay/Neuter-Vaccinate Feral Cat Resources

#### Humane Society of Tampa Bay

3607 N. Armenia Ave.

Tampa, FL 33607

Ph. 813-625-0910

[tnvr@humanesocietytampa.org](mailto:tnvr@humanesocietytampa.org)

Drop-off Mondays 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Pick-up Mondays 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Harmony Vet Care

8501 Ladue Lane (near Dale Mabry and Humphrey, just south of Waters)

813-871-0850 (press 2)

Tampa, FL 33614

Drop-off is most days of the week (Monday through Saturday (7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Pick-up is 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.