

How to Trap a trap-shy or trap-savvy Cat

Trap-shy

When a cat is afraid to go near or go into a trap, try one of these suggestions:

1. Try to desensitize the cat to the trap; leave the trap open but not set; feed the cat in the back if it has a removable back door or at the front but outside if the trap has no back door. Remove other food. The idea is to get the cat used to going near the trap. If you remove the back door or tie the trap open, gradually move the food closer to inside, then closer to the back of the trap.
2. Try using a larger trap; some cats feel too confined going into a small trap.
3. Try changing the appearance of the trap by covering it with a dark cloth or evergreens, leaves or branches.
4. Move the trap to a more secluded, quiet area.
5. Withhold other food for 1-2 days.
6. Try different types of bait. We have good luck with canned “Mealtime”. Sometime human tuna in oil works well. Sprinkle powdered lysine on the food. Bits of jarred chicken baby food are enticing. Whatever you use, do not place it in sharp edged cans; plastic lids are safer.
7. Alley Cat Allies suggest making a broth of Valerian Root boiled in water and dousing the trap with it!

Trap savvy

The trap-savvy cat is the PhD of feral cats. They can enter the trap, get the food and not be caught!

1. Try hanging the bait over the trigger plate.
2. Try a larger trap. The cat then will need to go deeper into the trap to get the food.
3. Again, Alley Cat Allies (a great source for all types of information about feral cats) suggests using a laser pointer as a distraction to guide the cat onto the trigger plate. The pointer can be used from a great distance away.