

Cat Traps

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society supports the use of humane live cat traps only if all appropriate actions are taken to ensure the health and safety of the trapped cat.

Rationale

- The Animal Protection Act (Alberta) legislates the humane treatment of animals caught in a live trap; the EHS enforces the Act to ensure animals are protected from harm.
- Humane live cat traps do not harm the animal; instead, they temporarily restrict the animal's freedom. It is a trapper's responsibility to ensure:
 - a trapped animal is not left in a trap for an extended period of time;
 - the animal's physical needs (food, water, and shelter from the elements) are attended to while in the possession of the trapper;
 - the animal is not intentionally harmed; and
 - the animal is:
 - returned to its owner;
 - released at the edge of the trapper's property; or
 - taken to the appropriate agency (e.g. City of Edmonton Animal Services Department).
- The EHS can provide resources on trapping and alternatives on managing free-roaming cat populations.

References

1. Alberta Queen's Printer. Animal Protection Act: Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000. Government of Alberta, Edmonton, 2010
2. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Trapping." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.
3. Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. "Free-Roaming, Abandoned and Feral Cats and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) HSVMA policy statement, Washington, 2011.
4. American Veterinary Medical Association. "Free-Roaming Abandoned and Feral Cats." AVMA policy statement, n.d.