

## Cat Trapping

### 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.

### Summary

- Humane traps are a non-lethal tool that can be used for capturing feral or stray cats with minimal handling, and for uses such as relocation or transportation, including for trap-neuter-return (TNR).
- Those using traps must abide by federal, provincial, and municipal legislation regarding the treatment and relocation of animals.

### Rationale

- The Criminal Code and the Alberta Animal Protection Act (APA) legislate the humane treatment of animals, including those caught in a live trap. It is illegal for an animal to be in distress. Animal Care and Control Centre (ACCC) enforces the Animal Protection Act within Edmonton, while the Alberta SPCA enforces the Act outside of Edmonton, within the province of Alberta.
- It is recommended that nuisance cats be discouraged from entering a property by communicating with their owner and making a property less appealing before resorting to a trap.
- EHS and ACCC can provide resources on alternatives for managing free roaming cat populations. ACCC can provide cat deterrent kits and humane trap rentals.
- Humane live cat traps do not harm the animal and are used to capture cats with minimal human contact and restrict the animal's freedom to allow for transportation. The use of leg traps on domestic animals is prohibited under the Criminal Code.
- Traps should not be set up in extreme weather conditions where an animal could face danger or distress while in the trap unattended. If it is necessary to utilize a trap in unsatisfactory weather conditions, the trap should be placed in a sheltered area, with a barrier like a blanket on the ground below the trap, and other protections provided. In high temperature traps should have shade provided. It is required under the APA to provide animals with reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold.
- Traps should be monitored and checked frequently. Traps should not be left overnight if they will not be monitored.
- It is the responsibility of those using traps to ensure:
  - a trapped animal is not left in a trap for an extended period
  - the animal's physical needs (food, water, and shelter from the elements) are attended to while in the care of the person utilizing the trap
  - the animal is not intentionally harmed
- Once trapped, the cat must be either
  - returned to its owner; or
  - released at the edge of the property; or,

- Cats cannot be transported to different areas and abandoned or destroyed. Abandonment or destruction of animals owned by other people are both offences under the Criminal Code.
- taken to the appropriate municipal agency (e.g. Animal Care and Control Centre in the City of Edmonton)

## References

1. Alberta Queen's Printer. Animal Protection Act: Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000. Government of Alberta, Edmonton, 2010
2. Criminal Code.
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 and Feral Cats." AVMA policy statement, n.d.
5. Unwanted Cats of Private Property
6. Alberta SPCA. "Cat Traps."