

# TRAPPING

## DOs & DON'Ts



**HAVE YOU NOTICED** that you may have a stray cat problem in your neighborhood or maybe you just have a pesky skunk or raccoon you would like to remove from your property?

You may have decided that you would like to start trapping these animals to either have them completely removed from your property or if they are feral cats, you may have decided to participate in a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program.

Either way, there are some basic guidelines you should follow if you decided you want to humanely trap an animal. Alpine Animal Services two main concerns, your safety and the safety of the animal being trapped. The following are tips for safe and successful trapping.

### **DO:**

- 1** Make sure your trap is working properly. If you are borrowing one from Alpine Animal Services, they should show you how to use the trap when initially dropping it off to you and they should make sure that the trap is in good working order.
- 2** Find out where the animal is coming from. Set the trap in the area that seems to have the most traffic from the animals.
- 3** Cover your trap with a dark towel or blanket.
- 4** Put something under the trap such as a board or other flat surface. Some animals that you may trap such as skunks and Raccoons will tear up your yard if the trap is left directly on it. This may also make the trap a lot harder to transport, when they dig, it also fills the trap with dirt and grass making it not only a mess but also very heavy to carry.
- 5** Talk to your neighbors about your plans to trap. If they have a cat that could potentially be trapped, they may be able to keep the cat up while you trap so that you don't accidentally get their cat by mistake.
- 6** Pick up any other pet food that may be outside of the trap.
- 7** Make sure that you check your trap often.
- 8** Set your trap in a spot that has protection from the sun for most if not all of the day.

- 9** Use the smelliest bait possible, the smellier the better. It will help lure the animal into the trap.
- 10** Call it into Animal Services immediately when you see an animal in your trap so that they can come pick the animal up or if you are part of a TNR program follow their instructions for handling and transport.
- 11** Wear gloves if you have to handle the trap to avoid bites or scratches.

## **DON'T:**

- 1** Argue with people who don't support your trapping efforts.
- 2** Trap on a hillside, flat surfaces is best.
- 3** Trap in extremely hot or cold weather,
- 4** Release an unsterilized cat just because it was not the one you were trying to get. If It does not have an ear notch, call Animal Services to pick it up or your TNR sponsor.
- 5** Ever leave traps unattended. If you do not plan checking the trap, periodically throughout the day, do not set it.
- 6** Put too much food in front of the trap. The animal may fill up and not be so inclined to enter for more.
- 7** Use dirty traps. The smell of another animal may deter a new one from entering the trap.
- 8** Attempt to touch an animal in a trap.
- 9** Trap without a plan. If you are doing TNR, the vet clinics will usually only sterilize feral cats on designated days, check with your vet to make sure they can accommodate you if you do catch a cat for TNR. Also, be aware that Animal Services' on duty hours are 7 days a week 8a-6p. If an animal is caught after hours, you may need to make sure it is protected before the Officer can come pick it up. If the animal seems to be sick, injured or in severe distress make sure to call it in after hours and don't wait for the next day.

