

FERAL CAT TRAPPING HINTS AND PROTOCOLS 2007

Trapping Protocol –

Never leave a trap unattended

Traps should be monitored at least 12 hourly.

When trapping it is important to set the trap in the shade and check it every morning and evening and if more than one kilometre from an occupied domestic dwelling, dispose of the unowned cat quickly and humanely.

Cat traps will catch a variety of species, some of which are nationally threatened such as the southern brown bandicoot. Goannas and echidnas are also thought to be declining in number and it is important that all animals apart from cats are released as quickly as possible to ensure that the trapping doesn't impact on non-target species.

If the weather is hot or if you are unable to check the trap frequently keep the trap closed during day.

Remember always:

The cat didn't ask to be born feral, handle with care and respect for the animal.

Choosing a location and setting the trap

- Haystacks, old sheds, car bodies, grain silos, dams, lagoons, fence lines, or an area where you have sighted a cat.
- Re-set traps in a previously good area again, after 2-3 months.
- Don't let others see you setting the trap or put the trap within eyesight of the road, traps may be lost
- Traps can be hard to see so ensure you know how to find it again by using a marker, GPS or by drawing a map.
- Ensure the trap is in working order.
- Set the trap on steady ground
- Use gloves when handling traps to avoid human odour transfer
- Bait the trap before leaving home, if possible, as this will reduce time spent at trapping areas and spread of human odour.
- Camouflage the trap as well as you can by putting it under small bushes or in a haystack, with a light cover of hay over the trap without obstructing the doorway.
- Keep dogs away as it will drive away cats.

Timing

- Move the trap every 4-5 days, allow 2-3 days for human smells to fade.
- A lot of cats have been caught the day after a possum has been trapped or soon after setting a trap at a reported sighting spot.

Baits

- These are a matter of choice and include table scraps, fish, crab shells, road kill but the best bait is tinned cat food.
- Change bait every 2-3 days using gloves to keep human smell away.

Moving a cat in a trap

Any aggravated and threatened cat can be dangerous.

When you have found a cat in your trap:

- Wear gloves whenever handling a trapped cat in a cage.
- Cover the entire trap with something dark (blanket, towel, hessian bag or shade-cloth cut to size) and this will help settle the cat.
- Transport cat to location for destruction and / or transfer to Council General Inspectors.
- Record details of trapping for monitoring purposes.
- Feral cats are extremely aggressive when caught, do not attempt to handle the cat.
- Handle cage as little as possible - this is a wild animal.

Thank you for considering cat management on your property...

Feral Cats on Kangaroo Island are responsible for the spread of Sarcosporidiosis in sheep and Toxoplasmosis in sheep and marsupials. They prey on wildlife including rare and endangered species such as the Kangaroo Island Dunnart.

Although individual trapping of cats is unlikely to eradicate them from Kangaroo Island, it can have a positive local effect in reducing numbers on an individual property.

A breeding female can produce up to 16 kittens per year, so with continuous trapping the ongoing effect can be beneficial.

Some farmers keep or allow cats on their properties for rodent control, however the financial loss to farms by Sarco and Toxo outweigh the benefits of rodent control, which is done effectively by many native species such as birds of prey and reptiles.

Trapping of cats can be frustrating, with an average success rate of just 3 cats caught per 100 trap nights. Non-target species tend to be caught more often, eg, goannas, echidnas, magpies, ravens etc.

Joining the KI Cat Control Committee might help to keep the morale up...!

The

**Kangaroo Island
Cat Control Committee**

thanks Envirofund for their support in helping to promote awareness of the feral cat problem in our community.

<http://www.kiccc.org.au>



Trapping Guide



**Kangaroo Island
Cat Control Committee**