



Guidelines for Free-Roaming Cats (Stray, Feral/Wild, Barn)

- Friendly strays can come in a secure carrier (not a box). A friendly stray can be handled by you AND strangers.
- Semi-friendly and feral/wild cats **MUST** come in a humane trap. A semi-friendly stray can be handled by you but NOT by strangers.
- **ONE** cat per trap. If you accidentally catch multiple feral cats in the same trap, you will be required to rent one trap per cat when you drop the cats off so we can place each cat in his own trap after spay/neuter surgery. (The trap rental fee is \$45/trap and is fully refundable upon return of the trap.)
- You must make an appointment for friendly strays, however, we understand you can't predict when you'll have success trapping a semi-friendly or a feral/wild cat, so walk-in appointments are available for feral cats Monday - Thursday IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE in our spay/neuter schedule that day.
- Drop-off is at 7:30 am. Please bring the cat into the clinic when you arrive. Please allow 30 minutes for check-in.
- Pick-up for free-roaming cats is at 9:00 am **the next day**.
- No food after midnight (we suggest trapping cats Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings so the cats are properly fasted for spay/neuter surgery the next day).
- Every cat must receive a free ear tip (to identify that they were fixed) in order to qualify for the \$25 spay/neuter price.
- We have a cash only policy. Payment is due when the cat is dropped off for his spay/neuter surgery.

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Guidelines for Free-Roaming Cats (Stray, Feral/Wild, Barn) continued

- If it is below 20 degrees:
 - Feral cats should not be left unattended in traps and trapping should be monitored at all times.
 - We strongly advise you to provide shelter to protect free-roaming cats from extreme temperatures and wet weather. Please keep in mind that you will be releasing the cat into the cold with a shaved belly.

If you cannot give the cat access to a garage, basement, shed or enclosed porch, you can make a shelter out of a Rubbermaid container (visit www.humaneohio.org for easy step-by-step instructions). Or use a strong box or crate (cut a hole in the side, not the top) insulated with waterproof material thick enough to keep out wind and cold. It's not a good idea to put blankets in the shelter because they can get wet and become frozen, so use waterproof materials like straw to insulate the shelter instead. Cats generally want their shelter and the area where they go to the bathroom to be separate, so you do not need to put a litter box in the shelter. Igloo style dog houses also make excellent cat shelters. A large shelter can provide a safe haven for more than one cat.

- Humane Ohio keeps cats overnight for one night. Male cats can be released back into the colony on the same day that Humane Ohio releases the cat to you. However, Humane Ohio recommends, if possible, keeping a female cat at your home (in the trap, dog crate, bathroom, screened in porch or basement) for one extra day for a total of 48 hours (one night at Humane Ohio's clinic, plus one night in your home). Female cats that were pregnant should be held for 3 – 7 days (one night at Humane Ohio's clinic, plus two nights at your home) depending on how far along the pregnancy was. If you have a double door trap, open the back door that slides open a crack and slide the food and water in. You can also pour food and water through the wire cage if there are already bowls inside the trap.
- If you are not able to keep the cat for the recommended amount of recovery time, Humane Ohio's veterinarian will determine whether or not to do the spay/neuter. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the weather and the situation.