

Pre-Baiting the Traps:

- Feeding the cats in the trap prior to setting the trap is called "pre-baiting". This is a very important step in the trapping process. Optimally, pre-baiting occurs for three days to a week prior to trapping.
- Place the traps in the area where the cats are normally fed. Securely wire or cable- tie the door into the open position. As another option, a dowel rod may be positioned through the sides of the trap to hold the door open. If there is a back door on the trap, it may be removed as well. Creating a tunnel-like pre-baiting situation may be necessary if the traps are left unattended (not recommended), leaving the cats at risk of getting trapped by someone other than the caretaker.
- Feed the cats at a time when someone will be available to monitor the traps.
- Place the food in a dish in the middle or at the far end of the trap so that the cat(s) have to enter the trap to eat. Be sure the cat does not have access to the food from outside of the trap. Do not put food anywhere other than inside the trap during this process.
- Use the cats' regular food, only leave enough for the cat(s) you are intending to catch, and pick up what is left after each meal. Do not leave food in the traps all day or night; this will attract other animals such as wildlife to the area.
- Once you start this pre-baiting process, do not put any food outside the traps; the cats are learning that it's necessary and safe to go into the trap to eat. Several days of pre-baiting are ideal, but even one or two days will be helpful.



Here is an example of how to set up pre-baiting with a two-door .trap.

Here is an example of how to set up pre-baiting with a one-door trap.

