

# Calgary Humane Society

## Cat Trapping

### **Position:**

The Calgary Humane Society supports the use of humane live cat traps only as a last resort to remove an unwanted cat from a property, and only if all appropriate actions are taken to ensure the health and safety of the trapped cat.

The City of Calgary Animal & By-law Services loans traps for a refundable deposit and requires a signed cat trapping agreement to ensure people trapping cats protect the animal's safety and turn the animal into Animal & By-law Services.

Citizens may use their own trap if they have a signed trapping agreement and their trap has been inspected by a by-law officer.

### **Rationale:**

- Before resorting to trapping, the CHS recommends trying other humane methods to deter a cat from entering property, such as:
  - Speaking to the cat's owner (if appropriate and feasible).
  - Placing a motion-sensor water sprayer on the property.
  - Erecting a physical barrier.
- Humane live-cat traps do not harm the animal; they simply restrict the animal's freedom. Removing an animal from property using a humane trap is a preferable alternative to the intentionally harmful actions that frustrated property owners sometimes take.
- It is a trapper's responsibility to ensure that:
  - A trapped animal is not left in a trap for an extended period of time.
  - The animal's physical needs (food, water and shelter from the elements) are attended to while in the possession of the trapper.
  - The animal is not intentionally harmed.
  - The animal is either:
    - a) Returned to its owner.
    - b) Released at the edge of the trapper's property.
    - c) Taken to the appropriate agency (e.g., City of Calgary Animal Services Department).
- Animals trapped in a live trap are protected from harm under current federal and provincial animal protection legislation.