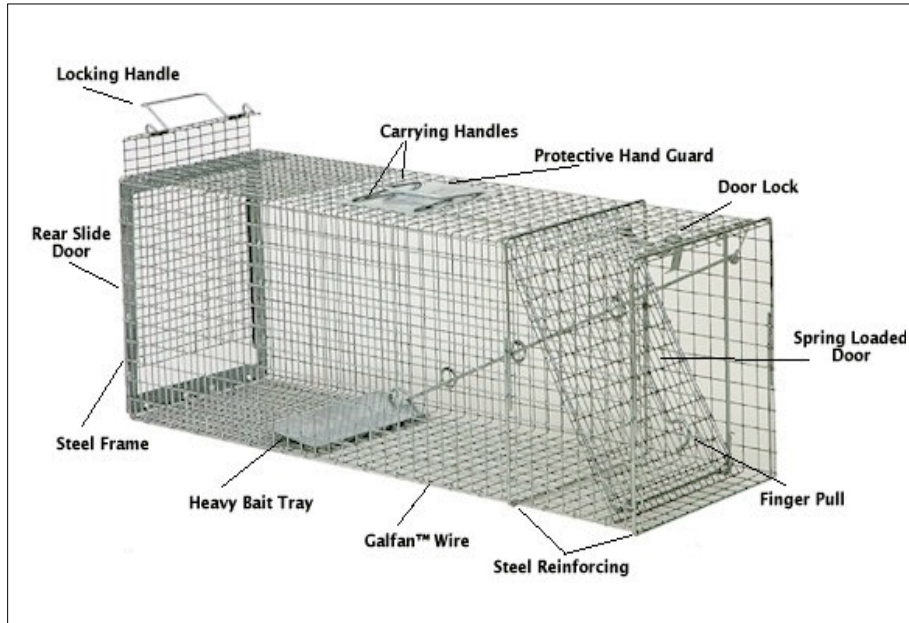


Transport Safety Protocol for all cats in traps and carriers.

TRAP AND CARRIER DOORS MUST ALWAYS BE CHECKED AND SECURED PRIOR TO TRANSPORT.

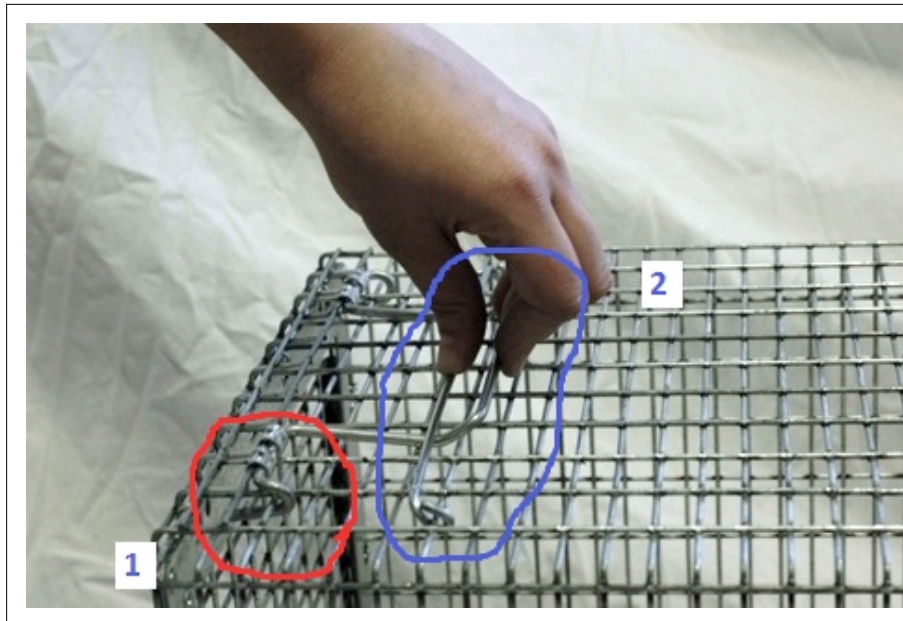
Cats in Traps:

Please use zip ties or twist ties to secure the rear doors. Make sure the traps are completely covered with a clean sheet or blanket. For 36" traps, material cut to 3 1/2 feet by 5 1/2 feet.



The **Safeguard** trap, shown here, is the most widely used.

Before moving a trap from any secure, enclosed space (i.e., your recovery space, the transport vehicle or pick-up location), check the security latches on the rear sliding door of each trap to make sure they are securely locked! You **can't tell** by glancing at it.



This image shows the locking mechanism of the **Safeguard** trap. The areas circled are where the two latches are.

Please ensure the small hook (1) has caught the main body of the trap. There are two of them – one on each side of the locking handle. The rear door cannot slide up when the hooks are properly in place. In the locked position, the locking handle (2) tucks securely under the fastening bar.

IF THESE ARE NOT IN PLACE, THE DOOR CAN OPEN EASILY EVEN THOUGH IT'S DOWN!

Another simple way to check that the door is locked is by pulling up with your fingers on the rear door of the trap. The door will not slide up if it is locked. **This safety check won't take more than 2 seconds per trap.**

Here are two lesser-used traps that you should also be familiar with.

The Tomahawk trap. Note that the lock is on the top.



The TruCatch trap.

YOU MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO TIP THIS TRAP OVER – IT WILL OPEN. When the door is down, the two rings drop to the bottom and prevent the door from opening. If the trap is tilted in a way that the rings slide up, the door will open.



Cats in Carriers:

Avoid using fabric carriers or any carrier that is faulty or damaged. If you must use fabric carriers, secure the zippers with ties; cats can and have pulled zippers open. Avoid using carriers with a top grill door; if you must, always check that the door has "clicked" in and fasten it with zip ties. Hold these carriers by the side, not the top. If using hard plastic carriers with a front grill door, make sure all the fasteners around the carrier are secure (some can be reinforced with zip ties) and the front door is locked. Do not use carriers with plastic doors. Test the door by trying to pull it open (when the cat is in a safe place). Even friendly cats appreciate being covered during transport.

Recap:

No one wants to lose ANY cat but to be sure, there is a special TNR/rescue Murphy's Law that dictates that if a cat escapes, he will be one who is either your absolute favorite, one who is most in need of care or the one that was impossible to trap. If there is any time to be anal - **now is the time!** Never assume that the doors of traps and carriers are secure unless you have physically checked them. Please be safe and take that extra few minutes to double check the doors -- in the morning before you leave for the clinic and again at pick-up!

When using the Mayor's Alliance or ASPCA transport, securing trap doors with zip or twist ties is required. It is highly recommended at other times, no matter what method of transport is being used.