



## Town of Atikokan

Box 1330, 120 Marks Street  
Atikokan, Ontario P0T 1C0

By-Law Enforcement/Animal Control  
807-597-1234 ext. 227

Office Fax: 807-597-6186  
[www.atikokan.ca](http://www.atikokan.ca)

### Cat Traps

#### Trapping a stray cat on your property

##### **Obtaining a Trap**

Traps may be signed out from the Town of Atikokan Enforcement Services for a Monday - Friday period. If the Animal Control Officer is not available traps should not be set until the Animal Control Officer is available. Traps will not be given out if the Animal Control Officer is away. Residents must provide their name, contact info and address. If there are no traps available, you will be put on a waiting list. To obtain the trap there will be a deposit of \$50.00 which will be refunded when the trap is returned in the same condition it was signed out. **\*Please note that traps will not be given out during the winter months due to the cold weather. (October-April).**

Cats caught in traps signed out through the town will be dealt with by Enforcement Services. Residents using their **own traps** will be responsible for care of trapped animals until such time as they can be transported to the Animal Control Officer. Residents will also be responsible for the transportation of such animal.

##### **Before You Trap**

Decide your course of action before the cat is caught. Make sure you have an area in your house where you will be able to keep the cat if you are unable to deal with it immediately (a garage, spare room, basement, etc.) Place newspaper or a tarp on the floor so that you can place the cage on it.

##### **Setting The Trap**

1. Use newspaper to line the bottom of the trap as many cats do not like to walk on wire.

2. Place the trap on a flat surface to test and prepare it before placing it at the trapping site. Preparation is important so that if a trap does not operate properly or it goes off too easily, it can be adjusted.
3. Locate the trap where the stray cat(s) is often observed on your property.
4. Place the trap in a sheltered area, protected from sun, cold, rain, and wind.
5. Place it on firm, level ground and make certain it is stable and will not rock or tip.
6. Cover the trap with a towel or blanket, leaving the door unobstructed.
7. Secure the cat trap or padlock it to something immovable.
8. Provide cat treats/dry food and a small container of water. (Using strong foods such as fish can attract other animals such as skunks)
9. **Always** monitor the trap.

Once the cat has been trapped, you have 3 options:

1. Take the cat back to the owner (if known).
2. Contact the Town of Atikokan Enforcement Services at **597-1234 ext. 227** and arrangements will be made to transport the cat to the shelter, or authorization will be given for you to take the cat to the shelter.
3. If the Animal Control Officer is unavailable, please do not release the cat any further than the edge of your property.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**The cat trap must be checked frequently. The Criminal Code of Canada and the Animal Protection Act clearly states any person in charge or control of an animal must provide adequate food, water and shelter and cannot cause distress to an animal. Leaving a cat in a trap may constitute a violation. It is not uncommon for a cat to perish when left exposed to the elements. A cat trap set in any weather must be monitored.**

### **After Trapping the Stray Cat:**

1. Wear thick/heavy protective gloves when handling a cage.
2. Cover the entire trap with a towel or blanket before moving it. A cat may thrash around inside the trap. Covering the trap will help reduce stress or panic.
3. Never carry a wire trap with an animal in it next to your body.
4. Never put your fingers inside the trap when handling it.
5. Do not set a trapped animal next to an electrical cord.
6. Do not allow children or pets near the cage.
7. Be sure the trap is secure prior to transporting the animal.

8. When transporting the cat in a car, place a trash bag or tarp UNDER the cage to help keep your car clean. Keep the cage covered with a towel, blanket or sheet. DO NOT transport the cat in the closed trunk of the car.

**Signs the Cat may be in Distress:**

1. Open mouth breathing – heavy panting
2. Glazed over eyes
3. Deep red, purple or whitish colour to the tongue
4. Blood on the cat or in the cage
5. Unsteady/Staggering
6. Unresponsive/Lethargic

**Wildlife**

If you trap wildlife by mistake, please do the following:

1. If you find a wild animal in your trap, release it immediately where it was caught.
2. Do not try to handle a wild animal. It will be frightened and possibly bite.
3. Wear heavy gloves, open the door and leave the hinged area promptly so the animal can go on its way.
4. Skunks: Approach the trap quietly, holding a large body-length sheet of plastic in front of you to create a curtain. Drape the plastic over the trap, leaving the door uncovered. If the skunk sprays, it will hit the plastic and not you. Release as above.

While releasing an animal from a trap on your property it is at your own risk, the Town of Atikokan will not be liable for any injury that happens.



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date trap obtained: \_\_\_\_\_ Date trap received: \_\_\_\_\_

Trap Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ AGREE THAT THE TOWN OF ATIKOKAN WILL NOT BE HELD LIABLE, OR ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY PERSONAL DAMAGES, INJURIES, OR COMPENSATION DUE TO ANY ILLNESS, INJURIES, OR BEHAVIOUR OF ANY ANIMAL THAT IS APPREHENDED AND/OR RELEASED FROM ANY TRAPS.

I FURTHER AGREE THAT I WILL CARE FOR THE ANIMAL AS PER THE CANADIAN KENNEL CODE OF PRACTICE, AND AS PER THE CANADIAN CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA. I AGREE THAT I WILL PROVIDE THE ANIMAL WITH SUITABLE AND ADEQUATE SHELTER AT ALL TIMES, POTABLE CLEAN WATER AND SUFFICIENT FOOD AT ALL TIMES.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

