



## Why does this cat look like a kid in a ghost costume?

Because his caregiver knows that feral (and even friendly) community cats can be very stressed when they are trapped and transported to Operation Catnip for surgery. **She wants this kitty to feel as safe and comfortable** as possible during his day at the Catnip clinic.

**Whether you are a cat caregiver, trapper, or a volunteer, you can help Operation Catnip set the highest HUMANE STANDARD for the kitties that we care for.** Everyone at the clinics should be on the lookout for opportunities to make the experience less stressful for the cats. We'll have extra sheets available, so feel free and empowered to jump right in and help.

Properly covered traps look like ghost costumes! So pick up an old sheet and cover those trapped kitties. They can't **thank you** but we can!

Questions? Just ask Dr. Katherine or Dr. Julie.



top notch  
care  
giving



not so  
much



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## Background



Recent studies have shown that as a prey species, cats need hiding places to feel safe and relaxed and to be able to retreat from people. Our feral kitties are particularly prone to stress because they just don't understand that we are trying to help them.

To keep our feral kitties safe and calm, Operation Catnip is committed to taking every step possible to reduce the stress levels of cats entering our clinics. In order to reduce their fear, we have upgraded our procedures to meet the national standard of care for high-quality clinics.

We join other nationally respected TNR programs to **REQUIRE** that all cats be brought to the clinic with their traps generously covered. Traps should have large sheets covering them to provide ample hiding space for the cats inside. The sheets should drape several feet below the trap when it is carried so the cats cannot see anything except what is directly below. Properly covered traps look like ghost costumes! So pick up an old sheet and cover those trapped kitties from the time the traps snap shut to the time they are released to the field. The kitties would thank you if they could.

**Want to learn more about trap covers and humane cat trapping?** Check out the brand new **TNR Handbook** from our friends at **Neighborhood Cats**. It's 168 pages of free fun-lovin' TNR!

[http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/uploads/File/Resources/NC%20TNR%20Handbook\\_WEB\\_v5-4.pdf](http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/uploads/File/Resources/NC%20TNR%20Handbook_WEB_v5-4.pdf)

**Wanna help?** With hundreds of cats coming to each clinic, Catnip needs **A LOT** of sheets.

- Your donations of old sheets are much appreciated
- Laundry volunteers are always needed to tackle the mountain of laundry that we create each month

**Operation Catnip** • [ocgainesville@gmail.com](mailto:ocgainesville@gmail.com) • **(352) 380-0940**

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