

## Fire Cat Recovery Tips

**By Marji Beach, experienced fire cat recovery trapper**

For those of you starting to return to your properties and who have missing cats, here are a few tips to get you started on luring your cat(s) back. I'm not including info like flyers, checking shelters, etc, this is specific to your property.

As soon as you return, **leave dry/wet food and water** in a shady, safe area away from any dangerous trees or structures. Keep in mind that PG&E and other contractors may access the property to fell trees, so leave food/water in a location that is as safe as possible.

If you happen to have **clothing with your scent on it**, leave something near the food.

**Set up a shelter box and leave near food/water.** This can be as simple as a taped up cardboard box with two holes cut out and with blankets or straw on bottom. Or, as complex as a plastic tote with two holes cut out and blankets/straw at bottom.

**Borrow or use a trail camera** to monitor day-time and night-time activity, but especially night-time activity. Remember, your cats are terrified. They will be frightened of contractors felling trees in the area. They are going to be most active when it is quiet - in early morning and during the night.

**Borrow or ask for help with setting up a cat trap.** Traps need to be monitored, so if it is not safe for non-residents or residents to access the property, wait until it is. So long as a cat has food/water/shelter, and no large predators are seen on trail cameras, your cat is relatively safe.

Note from Marji for assistance with recovering cats from the River Fire 8/2021:

*Nancy Jones and I are available to help set up trail cameras and trap cats. I have four trail cams and 10 traps. I know there is another team available as well.*

*Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for help. You can message me or text me at (707) 363-7960.*

Keep hope alive. Unless you find remains/body, assume your cat is out there.