

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

Let's Make TNR Trap Covers!

Created by Eliana & Soleil, Girl Scout Troop 31241

APPROX. TIME

Multi-day

PLANNING NEEDED

Advanced

GRADE LEVEL

Grades 6 - 12

BEST FOR

Partners or Small Groups

Families & Homeschool, Scouts
& Youth Clubs

ANIMALS HELPED — Community Cats

Purpose

Sew reusable covers for humane traps used by local TNR programs. The covers help provide a calmer, more protected environment for community cats throughout the Trap-Neuter-Return process. Donate the finished covers to a local rescue or TNR organization.

Special Project: This project was created by **Eliana and Soleil of Girl Scout Troop 31241** for their Silver Award. Their original instructions and photos are included so others can continue the project and help community cats.



Materials List

- ☐ Humane trap to measure, or measurements for the trap size being used
- ☐ Measuring tape
- ☐ Fabric
- ☐ Cardboard (*recommended if making multiple covers*)



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- ☐ **Fabric pen or permanent marker**
- ☐ **Fabric scissors**
- ☐ **Straight pins**
- ☐ **Thread**
- ☐ **Sewing machine**

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Contact a local shelter, rescue, or TNR organization before beginning. Ask if they can use handmade trap covers, what size traps they use, and how many covers they need.

Confirm the trap measurements. You'll need the trap's length, width, height, and handle measurements. Eliana and Soleil's instructions include measurements for the trap they used, but trap sizes may vary.

Decide how many covers you'll make. If you're making several covers for the same size trap, creating a reusable cardboard pattern can make the process easier. If you're making just one, you can measure directly onto the fabric.

Plan for sewing supervision and support. Make sure participants know how to safely use fabric scissors, pins, and a sewing machine, and provide adult assistance as needed.

Teacher Tip: Review Eliana and Soleil's original instructions and video tutorial before beginning. Their photos and diagrams show how to create the pattern and sew the trap cover.

Instructions

Follow Eliana and Soleil's original step-by-step instructions to create your TNR trap covers. They'll guide you through measuring the trap, creating a pattern, cutting the fabric, and sewing the cover.

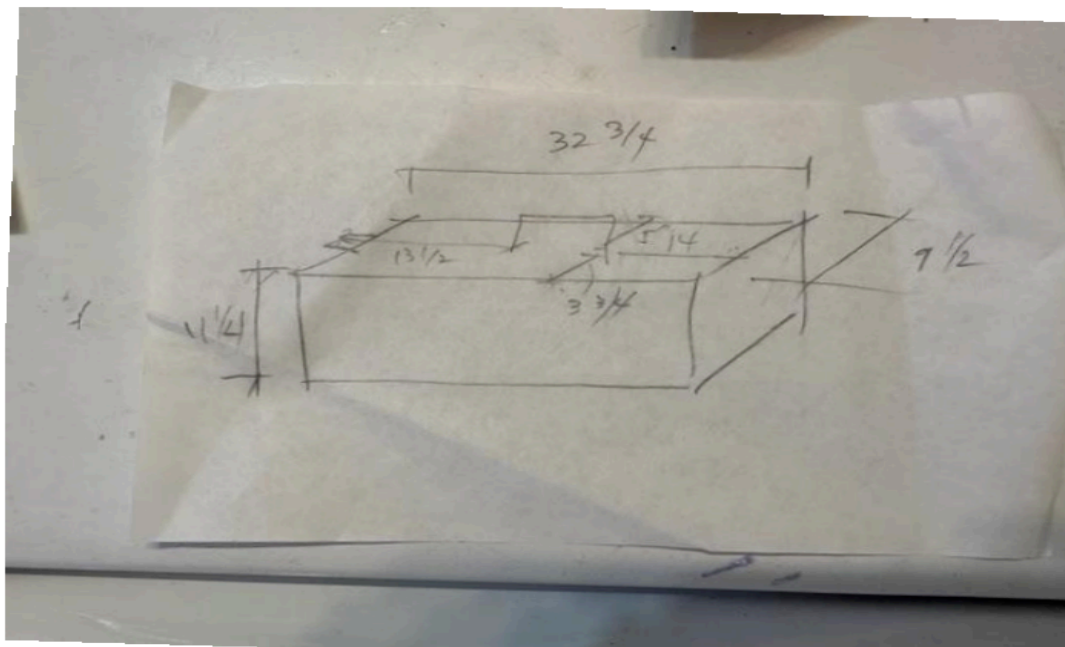
Important: Trap sizes vary. Use the measurements from the trap you're making a cover for rather than assuming the measurements shown in their example will fit every trap. Their original instructions begin by having makers measure the trap's length, width, height, and handle.

Troop 31241 TNR Cover Instructions Silver Project

By Eliana and Soleil

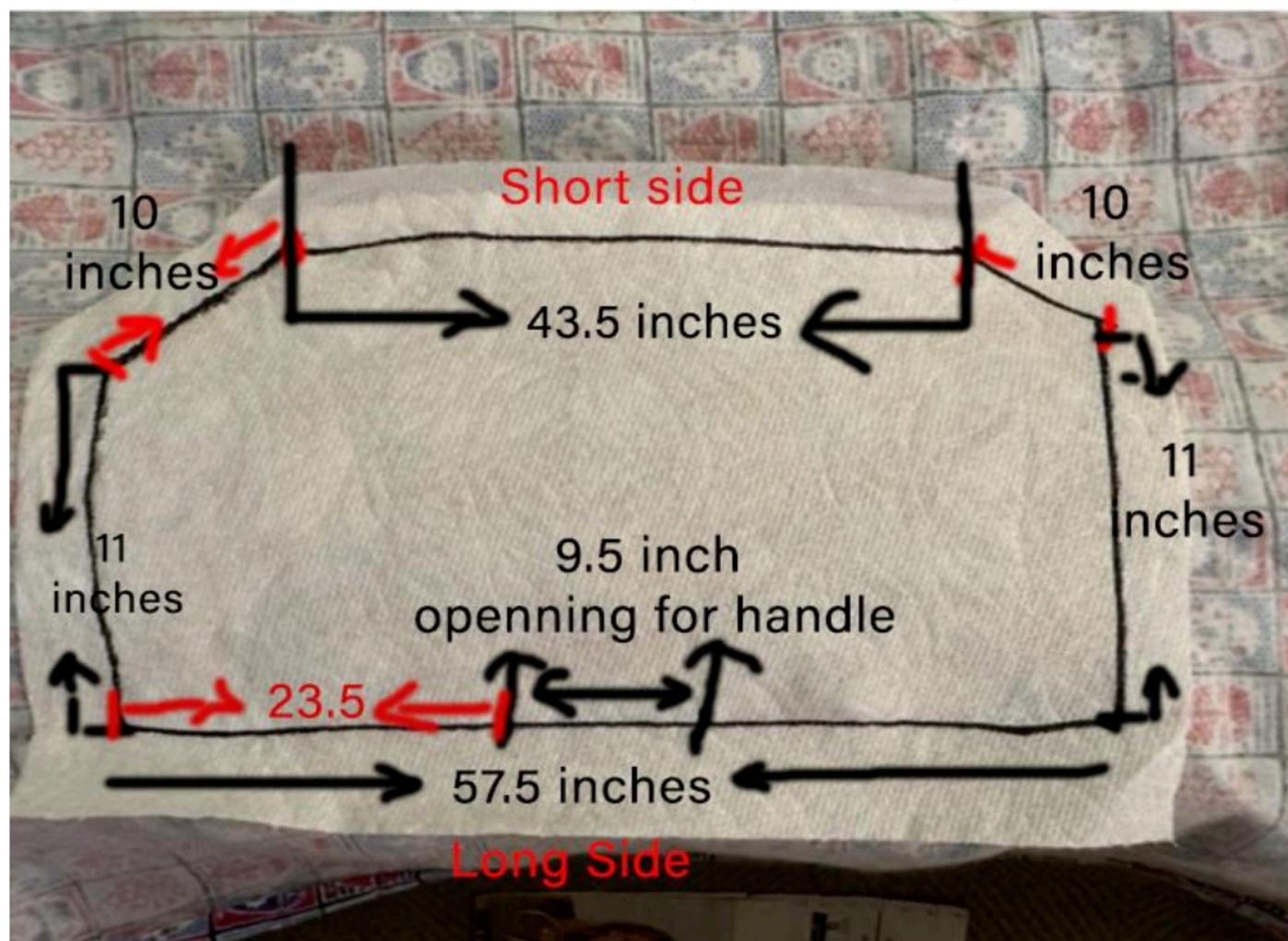


- 1.) If you are doing your own trap you will need to measure the traps Length, width, height, and measurement of the handle.





- 2.) Make a pattern based on the dimensions using cardboard. We make a cardboard pattern to make it easier to make more pieces. If you are only making 1 cover you can just measure straight onto fabric. To continue, now we make 2 fabric pieces of this cut out pattern and the 2 pieces will get sewn together so the handle can have a pre-made opening vs us cutting the fabric to make an opening for the handle. As you can see on the drawing in step 3 there is a 9.5 inch line for the handle, once the 2 fabrics are combined we will leave the 9.5inch gap open for the handle.
- 3.) Once you have your square dimensions for the cardboard make sure you do the corners at an angle so the fabric can fit better on the trap see photo below. The 2 lines on the bottom line indicate where the handel opening will be. If you are making same trap size as we measured the dimensions below will be how you want to cut out your cardboard.



- 4.) Trace the pattern on the fabric 2 times using a fabric pen or sharpie, **then cut the fabric an inch away from the lines.**
- 5.) Fold fabric $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch twice and pin as you fold the edges. Pin the short side only see labels in photo..
- 6.) Sew the short side on each piece of fabric while removing the pins. As you sew, **make sure to lock the start and the end of the stitches by going over it 3 times**

- 7.) Sew the 2 fabrics together on the long side but make sure you leave a gap of 9.5 inches in the middle for the handle. Make sure you do the end stitches and start stitches near the handel openings.
- 8.) After sewing the 2 fabrics together, fold in the edges of the sewn side, pin it, then sew. Again remember to lock the start and end of the stitches.
- 9.) Repeat number 4 & 5 for all the other edges
- 10.) Make a 1 inch stitch perpendicular to the opening for the handel going over it 4 times on each side

Feel Free to donate to any of your local rescues that do TNR and please share photos of what you have created with us at tncovers@gmail.com

Standards Connections

Framework	Connection
Common Core ELA	Speaking & Listening — Students collaborate to interpret directions, discuss measurements and sewing steps, solve problems, and complete the trap covers. Writing — Students may document the project, explain how trap covers support community cats, or share information about their completed project with others. (<i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1, SL.7.1, SL.8.1, SL.9–10.1, SL.11–12.1; W.6.2, W.7.2, W.8.2, W.9–10.2, W.11–12.2</i>)
Common Core Math	Applied Math — Students measure trap dimensions, work with lengths and dimensions, create or use a pattern, and apply measurements accurately when marking, cutting, and sewing fabric. Math connections will vary depending on the trap measurements and how the pattern is created.
SEL Competencies	Social Awareness — Students recognize the needs of community cats and understand how TNR programs support their humane care. Responsible Decision-Making — Students follow directions, use sewing tools and equipment safely, apply measurements carefully, and make adjustments as needed. Relationship Skills — Students collaborate, share responsibilities, communicate, and problem-solve while completing the project.
Service Learning	Community need identified (<i>providing practical support for community cats and local TNR programs</i>). Students create and donate useful trap covers to a local rescue or TNR organization while seeing how their work can directly support community cats and the people who care for them.

Additional Resources

Website

Title	URL
TNR Website created by Eliana & Soleil, Girl Scout Troop 31241	https://howtosewtnrtrapcoverssilverpro.godaddysites.com/

Video Tutorial

Title	URL
YouTube Tutorial created by Eliana & Soleil, Girl Scout Troop 31241	youtube.com/watch?si=442cAxj6EeyHqNiO&v=lel3U5eGPYs&feature=youtu.be

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn about **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)** and why it is used to help community cats?
2. How can a trap cover help a community cat during the TNR process?
3. What part of making the trap cover was **most challenging**, and how did you solve the problem?
4. Why was **accurate measuring and careful construction** important for this project?
5. How did working with others help you complete the project?
6. How does donating something you made meet a **real need in your community**?
7. What did you learn from Eliana and Soleil's project about how **young people can make a difference for animals**?



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Extension Ideas

- **Learn More About TNR:** Research how Trap-Neuter-Return works and how it helps community cats.
- **Connect With a Local Organization:** Invite a local rescue or TNR volunteer to speak about community cats and the work they do.
- **Make More Covers:** Work with the receiving organization to find out what trap sizes they use and create additional covers based on their needs.
- **Share What You Learned:** Create a poster, presentation, announcement, or digital message explaining TNR and how trap covers help community cats.
- **Share Your Project:** Document your project with photos and share on social media — tag **@pawsupprojects** and your local shelter.

Did you do this project?

We'd love for you — or an adult — to post your project on Paws Up Projects to inspire others.

pawsupprojects.org/post-your-project