



Pathway Planning: Distinguishing a Lost/Abandoned Cat from a Community Cat

Using a Stray Cat Intake Form and conversation based interview with the presenter, staff can also distinguish between a lost cat and community cat using these criteria.

Lost/abandoned cats can be distinguished from community cats when at least one of the following applies:

- Cat is wearing a collar with ID tag
- Cat has a microchip
- Cat is known to be recently abandoned by a previous owner
- Cat is actively trying to get into a particular home or building
- Cat is declawed
- New to the area where found – has been seen in the area where found for 3 weeks or less
- Altered without an ear-tip
- Ravenous appetite *and* unthrifty, disheveled coat, significantly underweight. (Signs of not thriving outdoors.)

In cases where at least one of the above applies, the situation warrants additional consideration and extra time spent determining if the cat is lost/abandoned. If lost/abandoned, follow lost pet reunification procedures, stray hold, and/or admissions/adoption path.