

HELP! I'VE FOUND A CAT

Friendly, Healthy Cats

Just Because I'm Outdoors Doesn't Mean I'm Lost

Did you know that the vast majority of “stray” cats aren’t actually lost? They simply live indoors and outdoors and will make their own way home. It might seem like bringing a cat that you found outdoors to a shelter is the best thing to do. But, in fact, it significantly reduces the chances that the cat will find its way home.

Quick Facts

- Fewer than 2% of stray cats nationwide are reunited with their owners through a shelter.
- Most cats don’t roam more than 6-7 houses from where they live.
- Rehoming a “stray” cat is not a guarantee that it will be kept indoors in its new home. It may actually be more dangerous to relocate a cat since it will not be aware of the new neighborhood's unique dangers.
- The majority of people who own cats found their cat as a stray or acquired it from a friend or family member. It is very possible that someone is currently caring for this cat and considers it theirs. (Source: ASPCA)
- We recommend pet cats are kept indoors or are allowed outdoors with a leash or in an enclosure like a catio.

Tips for Finding a Cat’s Owner

If you feel the cat is truly lost, please check for ID tags and have the cat scanned for a microchip at a local veterinary clinic to see if it has an owner that it can be reunited with right away. If the cat has no ID tags or microchip, here are some things to try before you bring the cat to the shelter:

- Ask neighbors if they know who cares for the cat or if they’ve seen the cat before.
- Create a flyer and post it around the area where you found the cat.
- Post a photo of the cat as found on Nextdoor, Finding Rover, PawBoost and your local “Lost & Found Pets” and neighborhood Facebook groups.
- Consider rehoming the cat if an owner is not located. Post the cat on our Home-to-Home adoptions page, or reach out to your friends and family.

Sick, Injured and Abandoned Cats

Healthy cats generally have a clean, well-groomed appearance, clear eyes and are a normal weight. By contrast, injured or ill cats may have discharge from the eyes or nose, be actively bleeding, have infected wounds, or be severely underweight or emaciated. If you find a sick or injured cat, they need your help. Please contact us immediately for further assistance.

If you witness a cat being abandoned by its owner or if you find a cat that you believe to be in immediate danger, please contact us for help.

If you need more assistance with a cat that you’ve found, please contact us at 626.792.7151 or email hello@pasadenahumane.org.

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Unfriendly Community Cats

What is a Community Cat?

Community cats are free-roaming cats that primarily live outdoors and many not be accustomed to human contact or handling. Cats that are fearful of people revert to fight or flight when approached or confined to a small space like a kennel. This behavior makes providing care, medical treatment, and placement very difficult. It also increases overall stress and may lead to a decline in health.

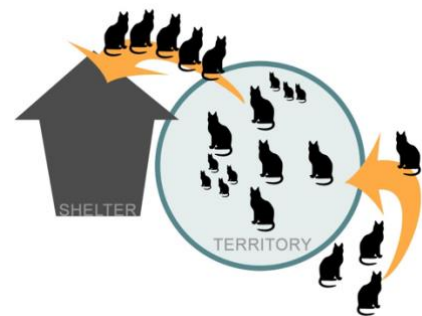
Trap-Neuter-Return-Monitor

We encourage Trap-Neuter-Return-Monitor (TNRM) for these cats. TNRM is the method of humanely trapping community cats, having them spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies, and then returning them to their colony to live out their lives. Consider monitoring the cat from a distance to make sure it continues to thrive in its environment. We offer spay/neuter appointments for community cats through our public clinic. To learn more and make an appointment, visit pasadenahumane.org/tnrm.

The Vacuum Effect

Removing cats from their environment is not the solution. Why?

- If cats are removed from their outdoor home, it creates a territorial opening—or vacuum—that will not remain empty.
- Removing cats from an area may cause a temporary decrease in the cat population, but more cats WILL take their place—and it won't take long.
- If you remove the cats, but not the food source, new cats will continue to come and existing cats will produce larger litters.



If Your Community Cats Are a Nuisance

Most deterrents sold for wildlife will work for cats including, but not limited to, spray deterrents or automated sound or sprinkler systems to startle intruders. There are also easy solutions you could consider with items already lying around your house.

- Used Coffee Grounds: If critters are digging or using your garden as a giant litter box, sprinkle or mix coffee grounds with the dirt. The coffee grounds will deter cats and help your plants grow.
- Citrus Peels: Scatter citrus peels in the mulch; cats do not like the smell of citrus.
- Bungee Cords: Use bungee cords to secure the trash cans and deter scavenging wildlife and/or cats.
- Cayenne Pepper: Mix cayenne pepper into soil if cats keep getting into your garden.

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