

Lost Pet Flowcharts

Loudin County Animal Services
Shared by Nina Stively 2/28/2024
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I found an adult cat outdoors in Loudoun County. What do I do?

Start here!

Is the cat sick or injured?

Yes

Please call LCAS for assistance.
703-777-0406

No

Is the cat "ear-tipped?"
(missing the top of their left ear)

No

Leave them alone, there is no law preventing cats from roaming in Loudoun County.

I'm worried!

Call LCAS at 703-777-0406 to see if anyone has reported them missing and to file a "found" report.

No lost reports at LCAS

Post their picture on NextDoor, your HOA email list and Facebook to look for their family.

OK, done!

If you can do so safely, bring the cat to a local vet to scan for a microchip. If the chip is unregistered, you can call LCAS for help tracking it.

No chip, now what?

Don't feed them! Cats love a free meal and will keep coming back. Put them back where you found them so they can make their way home!

I think I should bring this cat to the shelter.

Please don't bring the cat to the shelter. Less than 1/3 of lost cats are found by their families at the shelter.

The cat's best chance of getting home is to be left alone. If you feel this is urgent, call LCAS at 703-777-0406 before bringing the cat in.

Leave them alone, this is a community cat who has been spayed/neutered and is cared for!

Yes



I found a young kitten outdoors in Loudoun County. What do I do?

Start here!

Is the kitten sick or injured?

Yes

Carefully place them in a towel in a box and bring them to LCAS. Call when you are on the way. 703-777-0406

Awesome! Call us for assistance at 703-777-0406

No

Are their eyes open?

Yes

Can you easily pick them up with a towel?

No

If we provide free spay/neuter and vaccines, can they stay where they are?

No

Are they warm, dry and quiet?

Yes

Leave them alone for four hours and watch for mom from a distance. Does mom return? Are they still warm, dry and quiet?

Are you sure? Relocating unsocial kittens is typically unsuccessful.

No

No

Yes

Carefully place them in a towel in a box and bring them to LCAS. You must call us when you are on the way so we can prepare a foster home. 703-777-0406

Leave them be and revisit this chart weekly. At this age, Mom Cat is the best caretaker for them!

You can rent a humane trap for a fee - call us for assistance. 703-777-0406

Yes

Yes

Ok, I will help care for them

Yes, I am sure.



703-777-0406

I found a young kitten outdoors in Loudoun County. What do I do?

Start here!



Tag! You're Home!

Helping Loudoun County cats return home.

Did you know? Less than 1/3 of lost cats are found by their families at the shelter.

The cat's best chance of getting home is to be left alone.

If you feel the situation is urgent, or if the cat becomes sick or injured, call LCAS at 703-777-0406 before bringing the cat in.

Start here!

Place one of the "Tag You're Home" collars on the cat.

Hang flyers / place the Found Pet yard sign in your yard.

Ask your neighbors/post in local community groups to see if anyone knows this cat.

After 5 days, or if the cat returns without a collar for the second time, contact us to bring the cat to the shelter.

If the cat returns without a collar, place the second collar on the cat.

You can leave water out but remove food sources to encourage the cat to return home!

Please call us at 703-777-0406 before bringing the cat to the shelter.



703-777-0406