



Back Where They Belong

Getting Cats Back Where They Belong

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Maddie's® Million Pet Challenge
UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program





Community Cat Program (CCP) Basics

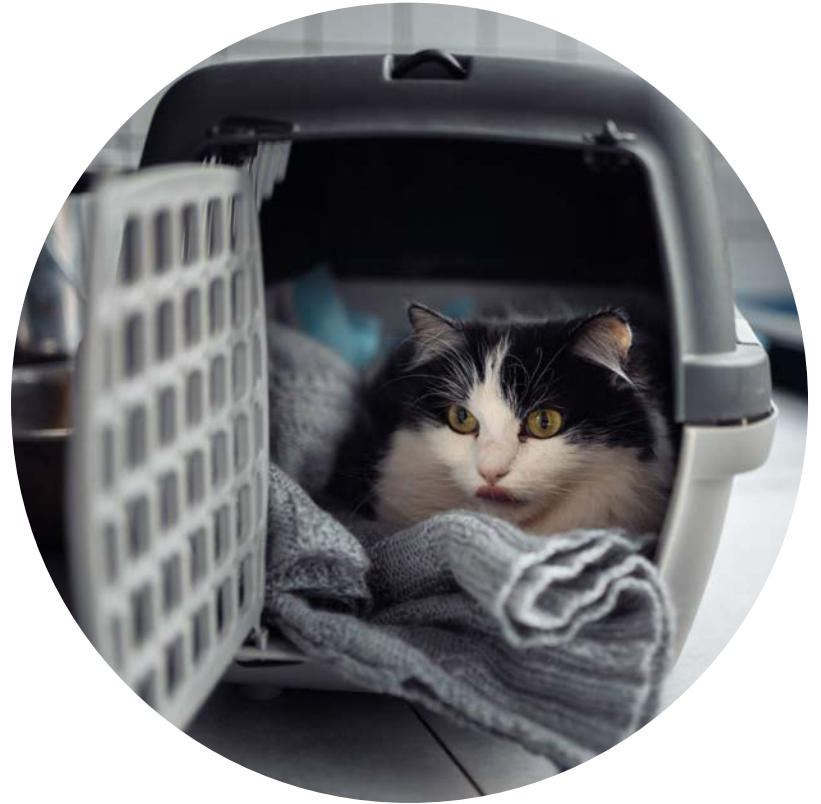
Legal Issues to Consider

- Leash laws, abandonment laws
- Contractual obligations



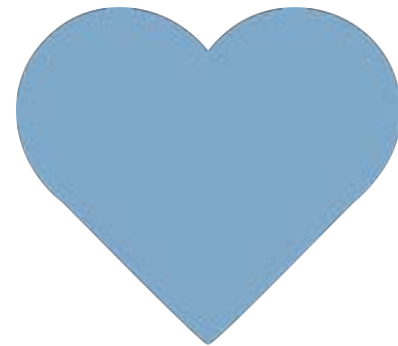
Cats Brought to Shelters for Impoundment Simply Do Not Make it Home

Fewer than 2% of stray cats
nationwide are reunited with
their owners through a shelter





Community Cat programs offer cats a way back home.



Potential CCP Program Services:

- Information on spay/neuter resources available locally
- Spay/Neuter Return (RTC/RTH/RTF)
- TNRM (trap-neuter-return-monitor) appointments
- Medical treatment for sick/injured community cats
- On the ground help with trapping
- Transport to and from surgery
- Humane trap loan program



What attributes must a CCP Candidate have?

- Adult, organization cut off for non-adults (>3 months?)
- Free roaming
- No indications of ownership
- Appears to be healthy or treatable if sick/injured

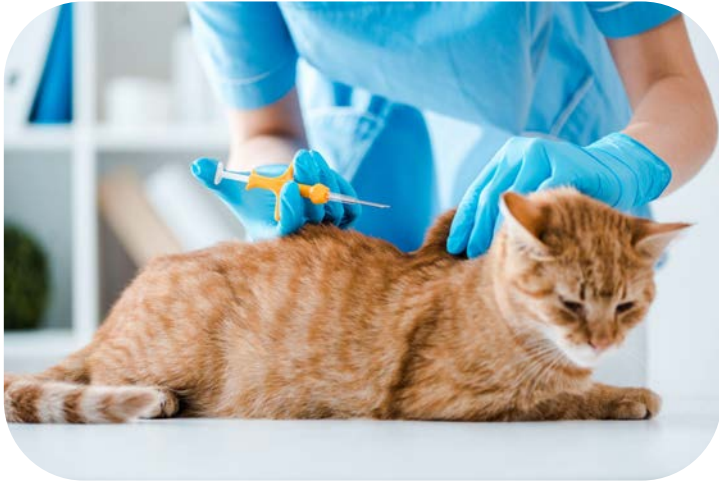


What attributes Would Exclude a Cat From a CCP?

- Signs of ownership: collar or microchip
- Condition or injury that would prevent the cat from continuing to thrive outdoors
- Can't confirm place of origin or is a dangerous location (for example a freeway) - NOTE: other options - nearby, barn home, etc.
- NOTE: Not based on behavior - feral, fearful, friendly - all candidates.

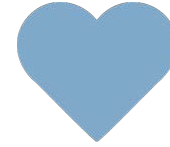


Alternatives for CCP “Rejects”



- Microchipped Cats: fee waived adoption after stray hold to finder
- Place of Origin
 - Ask the finder to return
 - Barn home placement (last resort)

Start Small But Dream BIG!



- Hotline (text) or email address
- Trained volunteers
- Partner with an outside organization
- Online forms
- Databases - many FREE options



Message to Your Community:

- Include information about the services you provide for outdoor cats clearly on your website
- Flyers or door hangers for canvassing
- Consistency across teams



<http://tinyurl.com/D1B1Resources>

HUMANE DETERRENTS

Humane Deterrents:

- Protect gardens
- Prevent damage
- Decrease roaming
- Deter wildlife

Ultrasonic deterrents ▶

A motion sensor device emits a high-pitched, ultrasonic sound. The sound can barely be heard by humans but will deter most cats. For the best effect, place the device facing the area you want to protect. Some versions include a USB charging cable or nine-volt batteries, while others are solar-powered. These devices can be purchased through online retailers such as Amazon.



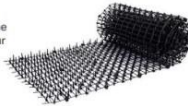
◀ Jet spray deterrents

A motion-activated sprinkler with an infrared sensor that releases a short blast of water. The sprinklers can "fire" up to 1,000 times on one nine-volt battery and typically cover an area of 35 by 45 feet.



Scatmats ▶

These harmless mats are made of flexible plastic spikes. Place on the ground with the spike side up to discourage cats from digging in your garden. An alternative to scatmats is poultry wire.



◀ Other affordable deterrents

Place forks or chopsticks into small potted plants. Use pinecones, lava rocks, concrete pavers or stones as mulch to prevent cats from digging.

Smells that repel cats: To keep cats out of yards or gardens, plant the herb rue or sprinkle dried rue. Citrus and lemon scents, garlic, ammonia, vinegar, coffee grinds, pipe tobacco, mustard, citronella, and eucalyptus all deter cats as well. The scents diminish over time, so re-applying is necessary.

Deterrent Tips:

- Install deterrents directly facing affected areas
- Do not install deterrents in high-traffic areas
- Monitor the battery level of deterrents (if applicable)

For assistance and additional information with community cats, please contact:
626.792.7151 ext. 985
communitycats@pasadenahumane.org



<http://tinyurl.com/D1B1Resources>

Help! I Found a Cat!

- Provide tips on what steps to take
- Resources for TNRM
- Nuisance cat advice

“But Mom, They’re Friendly!”



Photo credit: Emily Pacini, Pasadena Humane



Leave Healthy Adult Cats Where They Are

- Healthy outdoor cats shouldn't come to the shelter (unless for SN)
- Better to fast track through TNRM versus RTH/RTC



Talking Points for Staff



- Outside does not equal lost!
- If you feel a cat is truly lost, check for an ID tag, have them scanned for a chip, post flyers, post on social media or Lost and found sites and ask neighbors if they recognize the cat.
- Friendly Cats: Cats that are comfortable in their “home” environment - whether that’s indoors or outdoors - may be more likely to behave friendly. Often cats that initially appeared friendly in their home environments revert to being fearful in a shelter environment.



<http://tinyurl.com/D1B1Resources>

Turning a Negative Into a Positive!

- “We don’t take in healthy adult cats” → “Good news! We provide free spay/neuter and return cats to their outdoor homes!”
- “Put the cat back” → “This cat more than likely already has a home and by returning it to where you found it, there is a good chance they will make their way back on their own.”



Unintended Consequences



What's the Secret to
a Sustainable CCP?
...**Community relationships!**

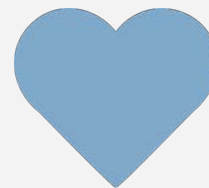


Resources Shared

- CCP Screening Form
- CCP General Flyer
- CCP Protocols
- CCP Deterrent Flyer
- CCP RTC Form
- Trap Loan Agreement
- Help with Found Cats Flyer
- CCP Talking Points
- CCP Messaging - Pasadena Humane Website
- CCP Messaging San Diego Humane Website
- CCP FAQ - San Diego Humane



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Thank You!

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