



How to deal with friendly stray cats

Thank you for contacting the Community Cat Coalition. We are an all volunteer organization made up of independent rescue people as well as various animal rescue organizations, all working to simply find ways to help not only the community cats, but the people in our communities. Community cats are made up of free roaming cats, and can include friendly stray or abandoned cats as well as feral and semi-feral cats; there are many ways to deal with them, and the following information is provided to help you in dealing with the friendly stray cats you have found.

If you have somehow attracted a friendly stray, chances are likely it has been abandoned and is looking for a home. There are multiple ways to deal with this; the most humane is to bring the cat inside your home and work on finding it a home.

#1 – Take the cat to a local vet or animal shelter to be scanned for a microchip – there should be no fee for this. Nothing is more rewarding than being able to reunite a lost pet with his/her people!

#2 – Post signs advertising Found Cat (you may want to post a minimal amount of information on the sign, requiring the person to identify the cat to ensure it is truly the owner of said cat.)

#3 – Go online and post Found Cat on any of the numerous sites available. Some examples of sites where you can look for lost cats (and post there as well) are <http://craigslist.org> (pets or lost and found sections); <http://lostandpound.com> , or <http://myspace.com/lostpetsinwesternwa>. Many newspapers will post a found ad for free, try your local paper.

#4 - There are several cat rescue groups in the area who may be able to help you, but none of them have space available for every abandoned cat. Every day they must turn away many cats – yet if you are willing to work with them to help place this cat, they may be able to help you. By asking the organization if they can take this cat if YOU are willing to foster him/her, you give them the ability to help you. Fostering means you will house the cat until the organization has space available and the opportunity to find the cat a new home - this can take a day or weeks or sometimes months. But in return the organization will neuter the cat, vaccinate, microchip, worm, deflea, and viral test him/her. The cost to you is minimal, and in the end you will have saved a life. A list of potential organizations is available on request, or you can Google cat rescue, cat shelters, feral cats, free roaming cats and your area. You can also find a more comprehensive list by doing a web search online for Animal Shelters in Washington State.

#5 – Find the cat a home yourself. Ask friends, relatives, neighbors, workmates, church members, social groups – you will be amazed at the people who will say “I was thinking of getting a cat”. (The priority – have the cat neutered – there are several free or low cost organizations that can make this easy, and finding a home for an altered cat is always easier and better in the long run for all. A list of spay/neuter options is available on request.). Take a picture of the cat, make a poster, and have it available to show as you tell the tale of woe – a picture is worth a thousand words.

#6 – Keep the cat ☺

#7 – An option we do not advise is taking the cat to the local shelter if it is a “kill” shelter. A large majority of cats are simply killed due to lack of homes – yet, if the cat is abandoned and no one will take the responsibility to care for it, it is probably more humane than leaving it to die of starvation.

Thank you for caring about the cats, and if you would like more information please contact us at communitycatcoalitionwa@gmail.com