HELPING COMMUNITY CATS

CAC COMMUNITY EDUCATION • PET PARENT SERIES

FOUND AN OUTDOOR CAT?

- Check for Identification: Look for a collar or ear tip.
- Ask Around: Neighbors may recognize the cat or know its caregiver.
- Check for an Owner: Friendly cats may be lost pets. Ask a shelter or veterinarian about microchip scanning.
- Seek Guidance: Contact a local rescue or TNR organization before intervening.

RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY CAT CARE

- Food & Water: Provide nutritious food and fresh water daily.
- Shelter: Offer waterproof, insulated shelters with dry straw bedding.
- Spay/Neuter: Support TNR to prevent unwanted litters.
- Monitor Health: Watch for injuries, weight loss, or behavioral changes.
- Cleanliness: Remove leftovers and maintain clean feeding areas.

FOUND KITTENS?

Don't assume they've been abandoned!
Mother cats often leave kittens temporarily to find food.
Observe healthy kittens from a distance before intervening.
Cold, sick, injured, or distressed kittens need prompt assistance.

WHAT SHOULD YOU AVOID?

- Never relocate cats without a proper relocation plan.
- Avoid blankets, towels, or hay in winter shelters.
- Never give human medications to cats.
- Don't attempt to handle frightened or unsocialized cats without appropriate training.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

VOLUNTEER • DONATE • FOSTER • ADVOCATE • EDUCATE

Support local TNR programs, help transport cats to veterinary appointments, donate food or supplies, and encourage humane community cat management.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

- Alley Cat Allies. Community Cat Care. alleycat.org & Finding Kittens Outdoors. alleycat.org
- ASPCA. A Closer Look at Community Cats. aspca.org
- Neighborhood Cats. Colony Care. neighborhoodcats.org

Educational disclaimer: General educational information only. This handout does not diagnose, treat, or prescribe for any animal and does not replace examination or individualized advice from a licensed veterinarian. Identification, licensing, collar, and travel requirements may vary by location and circumstance. CAC Community Education: General pet-parent education only. Not a substitute for individualized advice from a licensed veterinarian.