

DOES THIS CAT NEED TO BE RESCUED?



What to do when you find a "lost" cat

At this time, there are no laws in Massachusetts requiring that cats be kept indoors. This means cats are allowed to roam freely outdoors and many people own cats they consider either partially or fully "outdoor cats". This information will help you determine whether a cat is lost and needs to be rescued, or if they are an outdoor cat that shouldn't be removed. You should only bring a found cat to a shelter if you have taken the necessary steps listed below and have determined that the cat is most likely lost/abandoned OR if that cat is in poor health/injured.

Determine if the Cat is Actually Lost

- 1 Search for the owner-** Ask neighbors, put up signs and post online to see if anybody recognizes the cat. Flyers and social media are excellent avenues for reuniting lost cats with owners.
- 2 Put a paper collar on the cat-** We recommend writing "Call xxx-xxx-xxxx (your phone number) if you own this cat." It is a quick way to determine if a cat has a family before removing them from their territory.
- 3 Fill out a "found pet report" on our website-** If you still haven't found the owner, fill out this online form so that we can share the cat's information on our website and with other local rescue groups.
- 4 Scan for a microchip-** Make sure to bring the cat to a local veterinary office or the shelter to have them scanned for a microchip.

Clues That a Cat is in Their Home Territory and Should Not Be Removed

- They are in good condition; their coat looks good and they are of adequate weight
- Walking with tail up and ears forward
- Rolling around on the ground
- Hunting or playing
- Strolling or resting out in the open
- Happy vocalizations
- Relaxed interactions with other cats in the area



What to Do With a Lost Cat

- **Contact us-** we can help you with any of the steps above and work with you to make all efforts to locate the owner.
- If you have taken the steps above and no owner can be found, **you can contact your local Humane Society to bring the cat in.**
- If a cat is injured and in poor health/condition, **you can disregard the steps and the animal can be brought to the shelter immediately.**
- In some cases, if it is confirmed they are spayed/neutered and healthy cats, they may be released back to their territory if they are unable to be rehomed due to temperament issues. The shelter chooses not to euthanize healthy animals if it is safe and appropriate for the cat to be re-released.

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For more information, visit our website at <http://www.lowellhumanesociety.org/>