



# How to help... if you find a cat outside

## Most cats are best left where they are

Cats wandering outside are usually not far from their homes and are unlikely to be lost. Research shows that cats are over 13 times more likely to be reunited with their owners if left in place rather than taken to a shelter. A cat that looks healthy with good body condition and coat is very rarely lost. We might not know where that cat lives, but good body condition tells us the cat likely knows where home is. A cat that is not injured, ill or in imminent danger is unlikely to need assistance.

## Here's how you can help

- If the cat looks healthy, please leave it where it is/put it back where you found it.
- Post a picture and description of the cat on NextDoor, Craigslist, Pawboost, Lost Cats of IL, helpinglostpets.com, and surrounding neighborhood Facebook groups.
- Post "Cat Sighting" flyers in your neighborhood with your contact information and the date/time/location of sighting.



2741 S. Western Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
**Open noon-7 p.m.**  
*(by appointment only)*  
**VisitCACC@**  
**CityofChicago.org**

### Follow us



ChicagoAnimalCareandControl  
chicagoanimalcare  
ChicagoACC

### More information

[bit.ly/CACC\\_FAQ](http://bit.ly/CACC_FAQ)  
[chicago.gov/cacc](http://chicago.gov/cacc)

CACC is the city's only municipal open-admission animal shelter. It protects the public and promotes humane care of animals.

## **MOST CATS/KITTENS FOUND OUTSIDE SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE. IF THEY ARE INJURED, ILL, OR IN IMMEDIATE DANGER:**

- Call 311 or visit [311.CHICAGO.GOV](http://311.CHICAGO.GOV)
- Bring them to CACC: 2741 S. Western Ave. (12- 7 P.M.)

## Community cats

While not all free-roaming cats have what we think of as a traditional home, if they are healthy and in good body condition, they *likely* have a place they call home. These cats, often called community cats, are *usually* not in need of our assistance.

If you see a cat with a tipped ear (see photo), it is an indication that the cat has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated. If a cat is creating a nuisance and is not ear tipped, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is often the best way to help. If the cat has been abandoned, finding him a new indoor home may be appropriate.



## Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)



TNR is considered best practice and is good public policy. It ensures no new kittens are born, stabilizes cat populations, provides vaccines, and improves cats' lives. It also stops the behaviors and stresses associated with mating such as yowling, spraying, and fighting.

Healthy cats can usually be returned to their location of origin the day after surgery. Plans for sick or injured cats should be discussed with the clinic. See below for names of low-cost spay/neuter clinics and organizations that support TNR in Chicago and thank you for helping cats!

More information on TNR: [www.bit.ly/tnralleycat](http://www.bit.ly/tnralleycat)

## TNR and spay/neuter resources

**PAWS Chicago** Focus: South side; Clinic: 773-521-7729; yluna@pawschicago.org

Outreach: feralneighborhoodcats@pawschicago.org; 773-475-9410

**Tree House** Focus: North side; 773-262-4000; tnr@treehouseanimals.org

**Whiskers and Tails** Focus: Northwest side; info@whiskersandtailsfoundation.org

**TripleRPets** Focus: Southwest side/south suburbs; info@triplerpets.org; 708-738-1438

**Anti-Cruelty Society** Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic; anticruelty.org; 312-644-8338

**Feral Feline Project** Focus: North/northwest suburbs; feralfelineproject@gmail.com; 847-800-0095

**CatVando** Focus: Near west suburbs; catvando.org

### LOST & FOUND PET RESOURCES

Helpinglostpets.com

Pawboost.com

Neighborhood Social Media Sites

Petbond.com

### REHOMING RESOURCES

**Rehome.**Adoptapet.com

Petfinder.com

GetYourPet.com

Anticruelty.org/ShelterBypass



Chicago Community Cats  
CACC Kitten on Deck