



Think LOST, Not STRAY

If a cat appears on your property, it might be lost. Here are some suggestions for reuniting the cat with its owner. Keep in mind that cats that are not in their territory or were previously in a home are scared. Use caution, a quiet voice and slow motion when you approach the cat. If the cat appears to be thin, feed him outside in a convenient, protected area. The following suggestions will help reunite the cat with its owner:

- If the cat is okay to place in a carrier, take the cat to a veterinary clinic which will check for a microchip. The veterinary clinic will contact the microchip company then the owner will contact you to claim their cat. Also determine as much information about the cat so that it is easier to find its owner: the sex of cat, if is neutered or spayed, declawed, etc.
- Check the "lost & found" ads in the local paper, and place a "found cat" ad. The N & O places these ads free of charge. Remember to check the "lost" ads periodically, as well as local lost pet websites (see list below). Even if the description given doesn't perfectly fit the cat you've found, call anyway. You'd be surprised how many pet owners, shelter workers, and individuals who find lost pets and place "found" cat ads get the breed wrong!
- Create a fluorescent FOUND CAT flyer, take a photo (digital if possible) of the cat and make up some smaller (8 1/2 X 11) black & white "FOUND CAT" flyers with a partial description of the cat, the location where you found the cat, and your contact information. Leave off certain details so all callers will be forced to identify the cat. Deliver these to rescue groups, vet offices, and pet supply stores in your area. All national pet supply store chains offer lost-and-found bulletin boards in their stores, including PETCO and Pet Smart. When posting outside, place in a protective covering to protect the flyer from weather deterioration
- The following websites will allow free "Found Pet " posting to their websites: www.trianglelostpets.com, www.tabbytracker.com, www.petfinder.com, www.TheCenterForLostPets.com, www.craigslist.org, www.wral.com, www.newsobserver.com
- Do not let just anyone claim that the cat you found is his or hers. Do not answer any questions (from the caller) pertaining to the description of the cat. Do not ask leading questions like "Does your cat have a kink in its tail?" but instead ask open-ended questions like, "Describe your cat's tail" or "Is there something unique about your cat's tail?" Make the caller give you a full description of the lost pet.