

Healthy Stray Cat Intake Talking Points

WE STAND WITH THE CATS

Leading national organizations such as the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program (KSMP), National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA), ASPCA, American Association of Feline Practitioners and Million Cat Challenge advise against shelter admission for healthy free-roaming cats.

Removing a healthy cat from its environment with no sign of illness or injury puts that cat and every other cat in the shelter at risk, reduces the chances of owner reunification, and redirects resources away from cats that truly need our help. Paradoxically, removing a cat from its environment without concurrent removal of the food source has been linked to an increase in cat populations by as much as 200%.

SPAY AND NEUTER

During the pandemic, spay/neuter surgeries were suspended. As a result, the demand for surgeries far outpaces the number of surgeries available. Please be patient with your care providers as we all work through the backlog; this is a stressful time for everyone.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

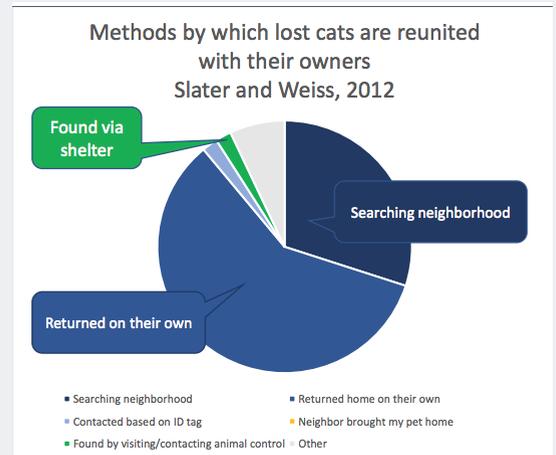
Thank you for caring about the animals in your community. Citizens like you have stepped up to build the safety net that is keeping animals that don't need to be in the shelter in the places where they'll receive superior care.

Here's how you can help right now:

- Lost cats are 10-50 times more likely to be reunited with their owners if they stay in the neighborhood of origin. If the cat looks healthy, please put it back where you found it/leave it where it is.
- If you are going to hold on to the cat, post "Found" flyers in your neighborhood (pawboost.com has templates to download).
- Post a picture and description of the cat to NextDoor, Craigslist, Pawboost and surrounding neighborhood Facebook groups.

CAT FACTS

Cats are > 10X more likely to return home if left where they are.



Cats have their own paths that dissect property lines and allow them to travel further than you might expect. When posting flyers, don't think in terms of street travel - cats don't! - think distance, or "as the crow flies." Post flyers on all the major streets that transverse your neighborhood.

Millions of pet cats are indoor/outdoor. Just because a cat is outside does not mean they are lost.

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 that cat knows where home is.

If the cat is a nuisance, remove all possible food sources. Cover bins, pick up food scraps around the yard and BBQ.

There are many cat deterrents that are humane and free. Be willing to try more than one solution- every cat is different.