



cat adoption team

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A STRAY CAT IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Clackamas County does not offer services for lost or stray cats. In some cases, Cat Adoption Team (CAT) can help with these cats. You can read more about CAT's role on the other side of this document. *If you've found a cat, it's essential that you make every reasonable effort to help find the cat's owner, even if CAT takes the cat in.*

How you can help a lost cat find its owner:

Often cats appear to be homeless when they are actually lost or just roaming. It's important not to make an assumption that a cat doesn't have a home. Pet cats may wander a large territory and eat or spend time at neighbors' homes. Always take these steps to look for the cat's owner:

1. Place a collar on the cat with a note reading "If this is your cat, call" and your phone number, and allow the cat to continue roaming for several days. (You may not know where the cat lives, but s/he probably does and then the owner can contact you.)
2. File a found report on Clackamas County's website: clackamas.us/dogs/lostnfound.html
3. Take the cat to a veterinary clinic or animal shelter to scan the cat for microchip.
4. Post large "Found Cat" flyers in your neighborhood that include a picture and description of the cat. (Cats sometimes roam 3 miles or more from home—post in a wide area!)
5. If you found the cat at or near an apartment complex, contact the apartment manager and post flyers at the property.
6. Read "lost pet" posts and write "found pet" posts on sites like Craigslist, Nextdoor, Facebook, LostPetsUSA.net, and FindingRover.com.
7. Post information on your personal social media pages to spread the word about the cat you've found.
8. If you still cannot locate an owner, your local animal shelter may be able to take the cat in. *A shelter should be the last resort for a found cat—and only after the efforts above have been exhausted.* Feral (unsocial with humans) cats fare much better supported in the community than in shelters. Visit feralcats.org for information about humane options for feral cats.

It's important to follow these steps even if you decide you would like to keep the cat. The law requires you to take reasonable efforts to locate the owner of a cat you find.

How to request intake for a cat you've found:

CAT is a limited-admission, adoption-guarantee shelter. This means we only take in cats when we have the space and resources available to care for them until they are adopted. You must have an intake appointment—we cannot accommodate walk-ins!

If you would like CAT to consider taking in a stray cat you found in Clackamas County, fill out our intake form online at: catadoptionteam.org/intake. An appointment does not guarantee admission. There is a \$20 intake fee per cat or litter of kittens.

WHY ISN'T THERE A SHELTER FOR STRAY CATS IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY?

In most areas, county shelters provide services for stray cats as well as dogs. In the four-county Portland metropolitan area, Multnomah, Washington, and Clark counties provide these services through county-funded shelters. However, Clackamas County does not provide or fund services for cats.

For years, private shelters like CAT were advised against taking in any stray animals—even from counties where no government-run animal services exist—due to ambiguities in the state law. In counties that don't fund animal control services for cats, that left stray cats and their finders without many options. An initiative led by CAT in 2018 provided better clarity on the state law and created a pathway for private shelters like ours to help.

CAT is now assisting a limited number of stray cats found in Clackamas County. Our shelter does not have the capacity to help every stray cat from Clackamas County, or to take strays at all times. We are only able to accept cats whose needs we can meet through our programs and services, and when we have the space and resources. We schedule intake appointments for any cat accepted into our shelter; we are not able to accommodate walk-ins.

CAT does not receive any funding from Clackamas County to care for and house the stray cats we take in. Additionally, as a private, nonprofit organization, we have different intake policies, procedures, and responsibilities than a government-funded county shelter.

Stray cats found in Washington, Multnomah, and Clark counties must continue to go to their local municipal shelter for the chance to be reunited with their owners or rehomed if not reclaimed.