

## How Do You Determine if a Cat is Lost?

### If the cat appears healthy...

Often times if a cat looks healthy and their fur looks clean and well kept, they are likely being taken care of someone (if not many people.)

### If the cat is friendly...

Cats that are friendly are likely a resident's cat who is just out for a stroll and is not actually a lost cat.

### If the cat is ear-tipped...

Cats that have been ear-tipped are community cats that have been humanely trapped, vaccinated, microchipped, spayed or neutered, and returned to outdoor homes to live out their lives.

### Check with neighbors!

Ask your neighbors if the cat is familiar to them or if it may even be theirs. You can also observe the cat's behavior and watch if they seem to return to the same home.

## Please don't take cats away from their homes.

Cats in the community that have caretakers are much more likely to find their own way home if they remain where they are found.

Our shelter's return to owner rate for cats is only 2.7%.

## When to Bring a Cat to the Shelter?

If a loose cat in your neighborhood appears to be injured, sick, or in immediate danger, please bring them to our shelter to receive the care they need.

Schedule an appointment to bring the cat to the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County:  
[thehumanesociety.org/lost-pets/found-pet-appointment/](http://thehumanesociety.org/lost-pets/found-pet-appointment/)

## Caring for Cats in Your Community

- Remove any uneaten food within 30 minutes. Leaving food out can attract insects and wildlife.
- Provide fresh water.
- Choose one place to feed and keep it clean. We recommend creating a "feeding area" for all food dishes.
- Keep everything clean.
- Create litter areas using sand. You can build a box with 2' x 4's or use a sandbox. A sandbox helps deter cats from relieving themselves in neighborhood gardens. Be sure the litter area is in a quiet, sheltered space and clean it regularly.
- Provide safe shelters. Cats need warm, dry places that are removed from populated areas.



You can learn more about Community Cats on our website:  
[thehumanesociety.org/services/community-cats/](http://thehumanesociety.org/services/community-cats/)

## Local Resources for Community Cat TNR

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County supports Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR), which has proven to be the most effective, humane method of reducing community cat populations. Through TNR, these cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated, microchipped, spayed or neutered, ear-tipped, and returned to outdoor homes to live out their lives.

### Northwest Spay & Neuter Center

6401 Pacific Ave | Tacoma, WA 98408  
(253) 292-3750  
[nwspayneuter.org](http://nwspayneuter.org)

Northwest Spay & Neuter Center offers a package which includes the spay or neuter, core vaccines, flea treatment if needed and an ear tip for easy visibility of sterilization so that they can return to their colonies without the risk of overpopulating.

What cats qualify for this program:

- A true, feral cat
- An outdoor only, un-owned cat
- A barn cat that is a true barn cat

### Finding a Trap:

**Northwest Spay & Neuter Center**  
[nwspayneuter.org](http://nwspayneuter.org)

Hardware stores also sell animal traps!



Petco Love Lost is a national database of lost and found pets that uses patented pet facial recognition technology to bring pets back home. It's free, fast, and easy to use.

Take a photo of the found pet, upload it, and search the Petco Love Lost database. If there's no match, create a free Petco Love Lost found pet flyer to share on Facebook and Nextdoor pages in your area.

[petcolovelost.org](http://petcolovelost.org)



**2608 Center Street  
Tacoma, WA 98409**  
[thehumanesociety.org](http://thehumanesociety.org)  
**(253) 383-2733**

### Hours:

Seven Days a Week: 11am - 5:30pm  
Adoption Center closed on Monday

## Loose Cat in Your Neighborhood?



## They May Not Be Lost!

They could be a community cat, which is an un-owned cat cared for by people in the community, or it could be a neighbor's cat who allows their cats out to explore outside.

