

You found a stray cat. NOW WHAT?

Yolo County Animal Services
(530) 668-5287

"I FOUND KITTENS IN MY YARD."

Call us for more info on fostering!

Are their eyes open and/or able to walk on their own?

NO

If the kitten's eyes are closed and/or they are unable to walk and they are quiet, leave them alone. The mother/queen is likely nearby finding food and could be gone for several hours. If the kittens are meowing, stay a good distance away (30 feet or more) and check if the mother arrives. If the kittens are still meowing after several hours and/or there is no sign of the mother, collect the kittens, keep them warm and call the appropriate animal shelter.

Young neonatal kittens are **2-3 times more** likely to survive if allowed to stay with their mother vs. being bottle-fed by hand.

YES

The mother/queen is still likely nearby. However, if the kitten's eyes are open and they are able to walk around on their own, try to offer them wet cat food. If they are able to eat the food on their own, call the shelter to figure out next steps for when they should come in and for help getting the mother spayed. If they are still unable to eat wet food on their own, they are likely still too young to be separated from their mother and should stay where they are. If the kittens appear to be in distress/ are very vocal, and there is still no sign of the mother after several hours. Call the shelter regarding next steps.

Always contact the shelter prior to removing kittens to ensure there is a safe place for them to go when they come in!

Good News!

Cat's with an ear tip like this are already altered and likely have a caretaker. This means they are spayed/neutered and unable to reproduce. Unless (s)he is sick or injured, (s)he is okay to stay where they are.

"Is it safe for cats to live outdoors?"

Community cats are fully capable of thriving outside. If the cat is healthy it makes sense that he/she has a source of food and shelter and is doing pretty well! Not all cats are adjusted to living inside; for some, outside is where they call home.

"The cat's okay, but I don't want more kittens"

Neither do we! If you are interested in learning more about TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) please contact the shelter. Currently, Yolo County Animal Services offers free spay/neuter for feral community cats (with an appointment). In addition, we do have resources for other feral cat clinics in the area who can help. Make sure you make an appointment **BEFORE** trapping the cat. If you come without an appointment and we have no room, you may be turned away.

"I don't want cats in my yard."

There are many deterrents you can use to keep the cats away without actually removing them from their homes altogether. The most effective and efficient way to decrease the amount of cats in your yard is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Cats are territorial and if you alter the cats in your yard, they will keep other cats away and not be able to reproduce.

For assistance with TNR, please contact the shelter at (530) 668-5287 or email ycaslostpets@yolocounty.org

"Is the cat sick, injured, or in immediate danger?"

NO

Leave the cat alone. This is a community cat and (s)he has learned to live outside.

YES

Bring the cat to the appropriate county shelter based on where (s)he was found.

"What if the cat is owned and someone is looking for him?"

Lost cats are **18 times** more likely to find their owners by being left where they are. Chances of getting home are better there than if he/she comes to us.

"I HAVE A STRAY MOTHER WITH KITTENS IN MY YARD."
Let's Work Together!

We can work together on figuring out the best situation for the kittens and getting mom spayed once she's ready!

Please email ycaslostpets@yolocounty.org for assistance.

PLEASE REMEMBER

If you've seen a cat in your neighborhood for a while, and he/she doesn't seem ill or injured, it stands to reason that the cat's basic needs are being met. It makes sense that to survive outside, the cat has developed strategies to keep safe and found places to stay dry, warm, and fed.

If the cat seems to be ok - living, maybe even thriving - it does not make sense to remove him/her from that environment.

Adapted from the Animal Care Centers of NYC Community Cat Flyer