

I FOUND A CAT!



Use this handy chart to help you make the right decisions regarding the cat you just found. **NOTE: Not all cats need to be brought to the shelter.**

START HERE

PLEASE do not automatically take found cats to the shelter.

IS THE CAT A KITTEN?

YES

Visit www.vcas.us/ifoundkittens.

NO

IS THE CAT SICK, INJURED, OR UNKEMPT?

YES



BRING THEM TO THE SHELTER

A sick or injured cat may need urgent veterinary care. Bring them to the shelter for medical attention. If they are unfriendly and you need to trap them, visit www.vcas.us/cats and click on **Cat Trap Loan Program** to obtain a humane trap from our agency.

IS THE CAT EARTIPPED?

An eartip identifies a cat who has been spayed or neutered through previous TNR efforts.

NO

IS THE CAT FRIENDLY?

NO

YES

YES



NO ACTION NEEDED

A healthy adult cat who is thriving in their environment and who has already been through the TNR process should be left to enjoy the freedom they have come to know.



IS THIS A FAMILY'S LOST CAT?

IF THIS IS SOMEONE'S LOST CAT, IT IS VITAL TO HELP FIND THEIR FAMILY!

Take their picture and share it on **Next Door** and **Social Media**. Post fliers around the neighborhood and ask neighbors if they recognize them.

DID SOMEONE CLAIM OWNERSHIP AFTER YOU SHARED THEIR PICTURE?

YES

CONGRATULATIONS!
You found the lost cat's family!

NO

NO

OPTION 1: Allow the cat to remain where they are but keep a close eye on them. If they become thin or unkempt, **bring them to the shelter** as they may not know how to find their own food or take care of themselves.

OPTION 2: If they truly look lost (i.e. they keep hanging around your property, scratching your door wanting to come in) **bring them to the shelter** for care.



TRAP NEUTER RETURN (TNR)

These unsocialized cats should enter the TNR program where they are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped, and returned to their outdoor home where they were thriving. Visit www.vcas.us/tnr to learn more about this process.

IMPORTANT:
Please monitor all community cats in your area. If any begin looking sick, thin or unkempt, bring them to the shelter for care.

IMPORTANT:
NEVER return a cat to a high-traffic or dangerous area. Take them to the shelter for TNR or our Working Cat Program.



This flowchart is intended to be a flexible guide to meet the needs of individual cats.
Thank you for caring for found animals in our community. Together, we can help all animals find their best outcome.
If you have questions or need advice, please contact Ventura County Animal Services at (805) 388-4341 or info@vcas.us.