

**Don't let that cat
pass you by.**

Follow these easy steps to
make a difference in her life.



Our mission

Together, we tackle the root causes
of animal cruelty and suffering to
create permanent change.



humaneworld.org

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Formerly called the Humane Society of the United States

Helping outdoor cats

What to do when you find
a cat who appears lost



Can you help this cat?

You're outside, working in the garden or taking a walk. You see a cat lounging in the grass or by the side of the road. She turns her head and looks at you. You call out, "Hey, kitty, kitty." You don't know what to do next. Does she even need your help?

We'll help you figure out what to do next. And by helping even one cat, you're taking a step toward creating permanent change for all animals.

Step one: Put on your detective hat.

First, check whether the kitty has an ear-tip. That's where the very top of one ear is clipped so it's flat instead of pointed, and it's the badge of a community cat. It indicates that she's been through a trap-neuter-return program and has an outdoor home.

No ear-tip? You need to learn her story by talking to your neighbors. Try the old-fashioned way—knocking on doors or posting flyers—or the new-fashioned way—sending them a text or posting your flyer on social media (try Facebook, Nextdoor or FrontPorch Forum). You want to know whether she's already somebody's pet or if she lives outside and is being taken care of (most lost cats are found within five houses of the one they escaped from).

If you discover she has a home or is being looked after, your job is done. That's good news.

But sometimes the cat you just spotted isn't being taken care of. She fends for herself and has started hanging around because she doesn't have any people ... until you came along.

Step two: Take her to the vet.

Outdoor cats who aren't being cared for need a trip to the vet to keep them happy and healthy. They need vaccines and—most importantly—to be sterilized. If the cat you found won't walk into a carrier, the best way to get her to the veterinarian is by trapping her with a humane box trap. Here's how.

First, use food to lure her into the trap. Feed her at the same time and place every day. While you get the kitty on a routine, borrow a humane cat trap and set up a veterinary appointment to get her spayed (or neutered, if she's really a he) and vaccinated. Your local animal shelter or cat rescue can usually help you locate a trap and a vet who works with stray and feral cats (often called community cats).



The day before the vet appointment, set the trap with dinner inside. If all goes well, she'll show up for her meal and walk right in. Cover the trap with a towel or blanket, and keep her somewhere safe for the night.

At the vet appointment, the cat will receive vaccines and get spayed or neutered. Her ear will be (painlessly!) clipped to help identify that she's been sterilized. Within a day, she'll be back with you—healthier, happier and no longer contributing to the cat overpopulation problem.

She might even end up curled up next to you on the couch. After all, about a third of cats living in homes were adopted as strays. And if she's not ready to live indoors, that's OK too. Now that she's vaccinated and sterilized, life outside is going to be much more comfortable.

Step three: Celebrate!

You just saved a life and took a stand against animal suffering. Thank you.



Can you help these kittens?

You just found a group of newborn kittens and Mom is nowhere to be seen. Before that rescue instinct kicks in and you scoop them up, take a deep breath, step back and wait.

Mom is probably nearby, getting food or hiding from you. She's the best caretaker for these kittens, so give her a few hours to return. If she doesn't come back, or if the kittens are in an unsafe location or appear to be in distress, then you can put on your mom-cat hat.

First, make sure the kittens are warm (don't feed them when they're cold), then reach out to your local shelter or cat rescue group for help. No group nearby? Learn what to do at humaneworld.org/outdoor-cats.

Ready to do more?

Learn about trap-neuter-return and find groups in your area by visiting humaneworld.org/outdoor-cats.