

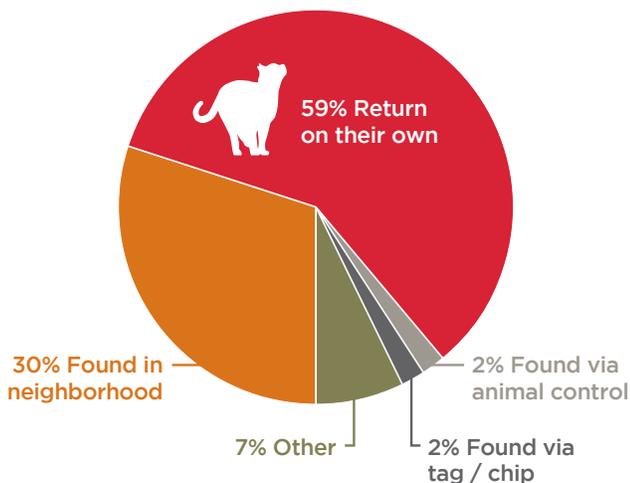


STRAY CATS IN CLARK COUNTY

If you find a healthy, stray cat in your area, don't rush to the rescue. It may be your neighbor's lost cat or a "community cat"—an independent, outdoor cat who prefers a life without human contact.

To support the health of the feline population in our area, the Humane Society for Southwest Washington is restricting its intake to accept only cats who are sick, injured, or otherwise in immediate danger. This strategy allows HSSW to support cats in need of immediate medical attention and expand programs like Spay Neuter Release (SNR) proven to resolve common concerns about free-roaming cats in our community.

CAT-RETURN SCENARIOS*



* From "Frequency of Lost Dogs and Cats in the United States and the Methods Used to Locate Them" mdpi.com/journal/animals | ISSN 2076-2615

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What should I do if I find a cat outside?

A: Unless the cat appears sick or injured, leave it where it is; it may just be exploring for the day. If possible, take a photo of the cat to share with neighbors and local lost and found groups on social media.

Q: Telling me to leave a cat outside seems cruel. Why won't HSSW take it?

A: Healthy outdoor cats have a better chance of success without intervention. If the cat is owned, it is more likely to find its way home on its own. If the cat appears healthy, the cat is able to care for itself; leaving it outside is not cruel and is often the best option for the cat.

Q: What is Spay Neuter Release (SNR)?

A: SNR is a program which provides spay/neuter surgeries to free-roaming community cats and returns them to where they were found. SNR has been proven to decrease municipal costs, reduce public health and safety concerns, decrease nuisance complaints, and reduce predation on wildlife, while improving the life of healthy outdoor cats.

Q: I don't want stray cats on my property. What can I do?

A: If you're feeding them, stop. When food sources become unavailable, cats will move on. There are other non-lethal deterrents that may be implemented to help keep them off your property. See hssw.org/straycats for more information. If they are unowned, you may also rent or purchase a humane trap to bring the cats in for SNR (make sure to speak with neighbors to find out if any of the cats are owned). While this will not get rid of the cats, it will remove the possibility of breeding more unwanted cats.

Q: What if I find a kitten or a litter of kittens?

A: If you find a kitten, a nursing mother and additional littermates may be nearby. As long as the kitten is safe, watch from a hidden distance to see if a mother comes to get it.

For more information about stray cats, please visit hssw.org/straycats.