

## **FAQ: I found a healthy stray cat, and my local animal control agency declined to pick it up – why? What can I do to help this cat?**

Statement from NACA (National Animal Care and Control Association) on Cat Intake Protocol Recommendations During COVID-19 Pandemic: *“The most likely impact of COVID-19 on shelters is a trend of average or increased intakes combined with reduced foster, adoption and rescue outcomes. This can quickly lead to overcrowding and shelters being forced to euthanize for space. As COVID-19 impacts on shelters continue, it is the recommendation that animal control agencies suspend intake of healthy stray and community cats, except for the purposes of sterilization and release. Officers should cease any activity involving trapping and intaking healthy community cats. Animal control organizations should continue to take in cats that are sick and injured, or are in immediate danger, as in the case of cats that are victims of neglect or cruelty.”*

This stray cat may also belong to an established community cat population or be an individual's personal pet. The best thing you can do for this cat is to monitor its health status and try to reconnect it with an owner if there is one. If you can safely approach the cat, look for a collar and tag. You can also consider advertising in your neighborhood with flyers or via your “Lost Cats” local Facebook page (many communities have them now), contacting your local SPCA to file a found report, and using social media to advertise the found pet.

Source:

[https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/animal-services-role-in-covid-19-support?fbclid=IwAR1\\_E8ge1S01p9s7TCICHyZwercGFbHU3hLL058w8\\_q7M4e8pUqgR6oHfhc#transport](https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/animal-services-role-in-covid-19-support?fbclid=IwAR1_E8ge1S01p9s7TCICHyZwercGFbHU3hLL058w8_q7M4e8pUqgR6oHfhc#transport)

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/how-individuals-can-help-community-cats>