

## So, You've Found an Adult Cat?

### YOU MUST HAVE A PLAN

There's a big step between *feeling sorry for a cat* and expecting a rescue to "find them a forever home." **Before trapping any cat, make sure you have somewhere for them to go—or be prepared to care for them yourself.**

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#### Key Things to Consider:

- **Does the cat need or want your help?**  
If they run away, avoid humans, or seem highly fearful of people they may be used to living free. Confinement could be traumatic  
Ask yourself: "**Would I adopt this cat or recommend them to a friend?**"  
If the answer is no, they'll likely be difficult for a rescue to rehome too
  - **Is the cat friendly?**  
If you can approach and pet them, they may be lost or abandoned  
Take them to a vet to check for a microchip  
If no owner is found but they look well and seem settled in the area, they may not need intervention.
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#### Want to Help? Here's What You Can Do:

- **The cat might already have a carer**  
If they're healthy and sticking to one area, someone may be feeding them. Ask around
  - **If the cat is injured or in danger:**  
You may need to trap them and arrange vet care **yourself**. Most rescues **can't assist with trapping**.
  - **Reach out to rescues (but be prepared to wait):**  
Rescues are often full and may have waiting lists. If you have already paid for vet work to be done it increases the chances of rescue support. At SAFE, we ask people to fill out an **online surrender form**, and we do our best to help if & **when space allows but there's no guarantee**
  - **Take the cat in yourself** (even temporarily)  
Giving them a safe place while you wait for rescue assistance or search for an owner is a huge help.
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#### If You Can't Take Them In:

- **Provide food and shelter outdoors**  
Even minimal support can greatly improve their welfare
  - **Consider TNR (Trap–Neuter–Return):**  
If the cat is unowned, desexing and returning them prevents more kittens and helps manage the local population
    - Apply for **desexing vouchers** from:
      - [National Desexing Network](#)
      - [Cat Protection Society](#)
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#### The Reality:

The number of stray cats in urban areas is overwhelming and humane management at **national, state, or council-level program**. Rescues are at capacity & they are run by volunteers using personal time and funds. If you care about cats, **you need to step up and be part of the solution.**

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#### Other Ways to Help:

- **Contact your local council or pound to ask what they are doing to help**
- **Give rescues detailed info** when you reach out (photos, behavior notes, location)
- **Join or start a local care group** - many street cats are part of managed colonies. Local feeders and TNR volunteers are often active on Facebook—connect with them or start your own group!

**You CAN make a difference**—even if it's just helping one cat at a time.