



Position Statement: Community Cats

Right or wrong, many owners who love their cats, allow them outside. It is common for Good Samaritans to mistake these outdoor cats for stray or lost and take cats to shelters so their owners can be found. The reality is that cats are 7-10 times more likely to find their way home from the street. Across the United States, only 2% of cats in shelters are reunited with their owners.

One Tail at a Time believes that it's not considered rescue if the pet is already owned. For that reason, we require our partner trappers and Good Samaritans to sign a code of conduct detailing steps to take to locate an owner prior to bringing any friendly outdoor cats to One Tail at a Time.

References

Lord, L.K., T.E. Wittum, A.K. Ferketich, J.A. Funk, and P.J. Rajala-Schultz. 2007a. Search and identification methods that owners use to find a lost cat. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 230(2): 217-220

Weiss, E. M. Slater, and L. Lord. 2012. Frequency of Lost Dogs and Cats in the United States and the Methods Used to Locate Them. *Animals* 2: 301-315. <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/2/2/301>