

So, you've Found an Adult Cat?

YOU MUST HAVE A PLAN

There are important things to consider between *feeling sorry for the cat* and deciding to take them off the street.

Key Things to Consider:

Rescues are always full so you have to be prepared to:

- Take in the cat permanently yourself and accept responsibility for them
- Arrange and pay for **desexing** and vaccinating
- Take them in temporarily until you can find a home for them or a rescue can take them

If you can't or aren't prepared to do this you may need to leave the cat where they are

- **Does the cat need or want your help?** Just because you think they need a home it doesn't mean they do. If the cat runs away or seem fearful they may be used to living free and confinement in a shelter or home could be traumatic for them. 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
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Want to Help? Here's What You Can Do:

- **If the cat is injured or in danger:**
You may need to trap them, arrange for vet care **yourself** and care for the cat in recovery. Most rescues **can't assist with trapping**
- **Does the cat look healthy and are they 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 they have no microchip, it's likely they are not desexed or vaccinated so if you can pay for vet work to be done it will help the cat and also help rescues with these costs
- **The cat might already have a carer**
If they're healthy and always in one area, someone may be feeding them. Ask around
- **Take the cat in yourself**
Care for them in your home while you wait and hope for a rescue to help. At the same time try to find someone to adopt the cat
- **Reach out to rescues** (but be prepared to wait & even then they may never be able to help):
Rescues are often full with waiting lists. If you have already paid for vet work to be done it increases the chances of them being able to help as they are short of money. However, there is no guarantee

At SAFE, we ask people to complete an **online surrender form** & if space opens up we may be able to take the cat but **we will ask you to contribute to vet work if you not already done**

If You Can't Take the Cat In Yourself:

- **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 helps manage the local cat population
 - You can apply for **desexing vouchers** from:
 - [National Desexing Network](#)
 - [Cat Protection Society](#)
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The Reality & Other Ways to help: If you care, **step up and be part of the solution.**

- **Contact your local council or pound to ask what they are doing**
Rescues are at capacity. They are run by volunteers using personal time and funds. The number of stray cats in urban areas is overwhelming and humane management at **national, state, or council-level is needed.**
- **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