



# What Do I Do If I Find a Friendly Cat?

A cat shows up on your doorstep. What do you do?

**Step One** - See if the cat has a microchip. This can help identify the guardian(s) of the cat, and provide contact information so kitty can be returned to her home. Most vet offices, pet store based clinics, and many rescues have microchip scanners that will scan them at no charge and provide you with the owner's contact information.

**Step Two** - Ask around. Look for lost pet signs. Check lost pet websites. Ask neighbors if they are missing a pet or if they know the identity of the cat in question. In some cases, these kitties already have a home. Some people are comfortable letting their cats outside, and these cats tend to be friendly.

**Step Three** - Contact your county's animal services. Many pet owners who have lost pets will be looking for them and animal control is often their first stop. In addition, many places have rules about holding an animal for 30 days before rehoming.

**Step Four** - Get the kitty checked out by a vet. Check out low cost spay/neuter clinics to ensure kitty is fixed, tested for diseases, vaccinated, dewormed, and de-fleaded. It's an important thing you can do to ensure that the cat is healthy and that no unexpected litters will occur

**Step Five** - If bringing a new kitty into your life doesn't work with your lifestyle or budget, look for a no-kill shelter or rescue organization that can help.

**TIP:** If you offer to foster the cat (i.e., keep kitty temporarily while working with the shelter to find her a home), rescues are more likely to be able to offer assistance. Shelters deal with overcrowding and requests for assistance constantly, so offering to hold on to an animal that you are looking to re-home is a great help to organizations with limited space and resources.

## What If I Find a Kitten?

If the kitten's eyes are closed, if it cannot eat solid food on it's own or walk steadily, and it is not in immediate danger, it is better to leave the kitten where it can be found and cared for by its mother. When kittens are between 7 and 8 weeks old, you can begin the process of caring for them medically and socially.

