

For the Cats' Sake — Intake of Cats and Kittens

The intake process

Cats enter For the Cats' Sake in one of the following ways:

- Cats that are part of TNR process (trap,neuter and return) are sometimes adoptable and therefore become intakes for adoption.
- Cats that are part of TNR process may need medical care or recuperation time, are taken in and either returned later or adopted.
- Stray cats that community members call us for help with, due to injuries such as bullet wounds, hit by car, abscess or infection.
- Mother cats and/or kittens that are in unsafe locations and need shelter and care. Sometimes adult females will return to where they came from and are cared for by residents, after we spay and vaccinate them. Other times we find homes for mother cats, and kittens are nearly always intakes with the intention of socialization and adoption.
- Calls from the community, Facebook messages, emails and social media asking for help with cats left behind when owners move, or when owners pass away, or are unable due to health or age to care for pets anymore.
- Assisting fellow rescue organizations if they are unable to intake a cat, and we are in a position to intake for either temporary or long-term fostering and adoption.
- Relocating cats from colonies that no longer have a caregiver, or that are too large for the caregiver to feed and look after.
- Neonatal kittens in need of experienced foster care, will be taken in, and if we do not have an available long term foster they will be transferred to an organization that usually is able to take these neonatal kittens to care for and find them homes.

Every intake is on a case by case basis, and is determined by our capacity, fosters, health of animals in our care and number of volunteers. The financial capacity of our group is also a factor in this decision making process. We never want to take on more animals than we can support financially and we must have the ability to care for all cats in our care to a high standard.

The intake process

Each cat that is taken in by our group will have an intake form filled out for it, not including cats that are just temporarily in our care in order to be spayed/neutered and vaccinated. This form documents critical information about the cat e.g., description of the cat and location where it was found/surrendered. Also volunteer or surrenderer of cat, condition of animal and reason for intake.

Information from the intake form must be transferred to our database, which will then be used to track the cat's care and treatments until an outcome (e.g., return-to-field, foster, transfer to a rescue organization) is finalized. The database will also be used to generate periodic reports, and provide adopters, transfers and vets, with a detailed journal of the cats treatment while in our care. Adoption information will also be recorded in this database.

Each cat is scanned for a microchip during intake, and every effort is made to locate the owners of microchipped cats. Cats will also be tested for FIV and FeLV, and given core vaccinations at appropriate times. Our group has a care protocol that outlines deworming, medications and treatments that each cat or kitten should get. This has been created with input from vets and other rescue groups.

Cats and kittens will be isolated from the general population of foster cats until a two week period of observation has established the health of the animals. Volunteers will evaluate each cat's personality and recommend appropriate outcomes accordingly. We will devote time to socialize those cats or kittens who can be brought around to not fearing people. Our group places cats in many different types of homes depending on the cats' best outcome. This could be as inside pets, inside/outside pets, outside only pets or barn cats. Every cat must be adopted and receive an appropriate level of attention, adequate shelter, food and vet care.

TNR (trap,neuter & return) and cats for Spay/Neuter only

Cats that come through our group temporarily for fixing, are not intakes. They are kept in a quiet, temperature-controlled holding area to await surgery. Surgeries are performed off-site at either our primary vet, or partner clinics. Cats are housed in a dedicated area for S/N cats and are transferred from traps into cages with a carrier that allows us to transfer feral cats back out of cage into a trap. The same area is often used for post-surgery recovery, unless our partner clinics provide space and keep cats overnight for recovery.

Every eligible cat who comes through For the Cat's Sake is sterilized, vaccinated against rabies and has a distemper combo vaccine. They may also be dewormed, get flea treatment or tapeworm meds if they need it. All cats being returned to colonies or outside lives are ear-tipped, and treated for any detectable medical needs before being returned to where the cat was trapped.

We do not return any cats to a location, unless there is a caregiver, shelter and food is provided. We encourage caregivers to contact us for help if an animal needs vet care that they cannot afford.

Cats eligible for being fixed by our group, must be healthy and of an appropriate age and weight to go through with surgery.