



Not All Who Wander Are Lost



Among cat owners, 31% allowed their cats to spend some time **outdoors.**¹



How Are Lost Cats Different?



Only 2.6% of impounded cats are found by their owners at a shelter, **even though** 57% contacted animal control agencies for help. 2,3

Cats are **13 times** more likely to be found through non-shelter means.⁴

Among found cats, 66% returned home **on their own**.⁴

Among found cats, 83% were found outside within a median distance of **50 meters**.⁵



Large Scale Program Study

One 2019 peer-reviewed study, published in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, reported the results of large-scale TNVR programs operating at 6 municipal shelters across the country (a total of nearly 60,000 cats) where it found that just 0.5% of these cats were euthanized for serious health concerns and 0.3% were relocated because they could not be safely returned to their original locations. Between the two of those that's less than 1% of the cats coming in over 6 years meaning that the overwhelming majority of cats do not need shelter services aside from sterilization and vaccination. ⁶



Cited Studies

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3. Best Friends Animal Society's No-Kill Positive Outcome Study, **2019**.
4. Lord, L.K., et al., *Search and identification methods that owners use to find a lost cat*. J Am Vet Med Assoc, **2007**. 230(2): p. 217-20.
5. Huang, L., M. Coradini, J. Rand, J. Morton, K. Albrecht, B. Wasson, and D. Robertson, **2018**. Search methods used to locate missing cats and locations where missing cats are found. *Animals* 8(1): 5.
6. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. Integrated Return-to-Field and Targeted Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return Programs Result in Reductions of Feline Intake and Euthanasia at Six Municipal Animal Shelters. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, **2019**.