



**Community cats** once lived in a home but were lost, abandoned or otherwise forced to survive on their own. They can be approached, but are no longer used to being picked up or handled. Rehabilitation is sometimes possible for community cats if the proper process is followed.



**Feral cats** are born wild, live in colonies in one territory, are nocturnal and remain fairly hidden from humans. In fact, they tend to cower or run from human interaction, but they could also growl or scratch. Feral cats are also completely self-sufficient and rarely have injuries or are malnourished.



## CATS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Edmonton

In Edmonton, all domestic cats are required to hold a valid City of Edmonton cat licence, but are allowed to roam on public property (Animal Licensing & Control Bylaw 13145).

In 2016, only 16 per cent of cats that were admitted to the Animal Care & Control Centre (ACCC) were successfully returned to their owners. That left over 3,500 unclaimed cats looking for new homes through the Edmonton Humane Society or partner animal rescues. It is also estimated that there are over 70,000 feral and community cats living without human homes within our city.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Blancher, P. (2013). "Estimated Number of Birds Killed by House Cats (*Felis catus*) in Canada." *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 8(2).

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND A CAT?

First, examine the cat's behaviour and characteristics to determine the kind of cat you have found. It is best to monitor the cat's situation and talk to neighbours before moving it and only bring it to the Animal Care & Control Centre (ACCC) if it's injured, unhealthy or a nuisance on private property. If you find a kitten, please call 311, as there are many factors that help determine what needs to be done. If you need more information about cats on your property, call 311 or visit [edmonton.ca/pets](http://edmonton.ca/pets).

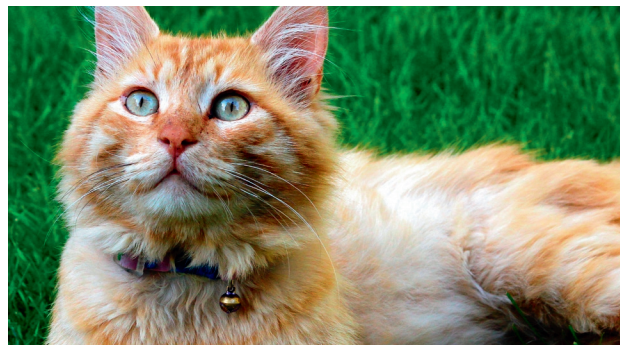
Please note that if you provide food and shelter for outdoor cats, this will likely lead to more cats to your property, increased litter sizes and higher feral cat populations.



**Owned lost cats** are not accustomed to the outdoors and are often found hiding, scared and difficult to approach. Over time, lost cats start to lose weight, so their coats will begin to get dull/matted and they may have injuries such as scratches, breaks or frostbite.

### TIP

**Lost cats typically do not roam too far from home, so bringing the cat to a facility or into your home can significantly decrease its chances of finding its way home.**



**Owned outdoor cats** are familiar with roaming outdoors and have specific places they visit often. They are in healthy condition and are likely very friendly and approachable.

### TIP

**A cat with a collar and a bell is often a sign its owners know it is outside, so it's likely to return home if left alone.**