

Cat Intake Changes

MCAS is only taking sick, injured, or abandoned cats. Instead of bringing them to the shelter, search for owners of healthy adult cats, and seek spay or neuter services if an owner isn't found.

This is a new best practice and recommendation from the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA).

Bringing Healthy Adult Cats to the Shelter:

- Reduces the likelihood of reuniting families with pets, especially for under-served or marginalized communities
- Affects low-income community members without the time or transportation to come to the shelter, and are less likely to call or visit
- Can increase cat populations-removing cats leads to different cats moving in, especially where there's food
- Doesn't solve nuisance behaviors or core problems with outdoor cats



Revised October 2022

Guide Summary

Cats

- Leave healthy adult cats where they are, or return them to where they were found, and arrange spay/neuter or TNR
- Call MCAS for intake arrangements for cats that are sick, injured, in danger, or clearly abandoned (e.g. in a carrier, or left in an unoccupied dwelling)

Online Outdoor Cat Guide

[MultCoPets.org/outdoor-cat-information](https://multcopets.org/outdoor-cat-information)

Kittens

- Leave unweaned, healthy kittens alone for their mother to care for them
- Contact MCAS about unweaned kittens that are sick, injured, or in danger
- **Quiet & Clean = Healthy & Safe.** Mom is nearby and they can be left alone
- **Loud & Dirty = Mom is Missing.** They are hungry and you should intervene
- Contact MCAS about kittens 6 to 12 weeks of age, regardless of health, and social kittens 3 - 6 months of age

Online Kitten Guide

[MultCoPets.org/resources-found-kittens](https://multcopets.org/resources-found-kittens)

Contact Info

1700 W Historic Columbia River Highway
Troutdale, OR 97060

(503) 988-7387
mail.pet@multco.us

Outdoor Cat Resources

Caring for outdoor cats and kittens, and when to bring them to the shelter



Multnomah
County
Animal Services

Cats

Bring In Sick or Injured Cats

Contact MCAS about cats that are sick, injured, abandoned, or In danger.

Call 503-988-7387 for guidance and intake arrangements.

Leave Healthy Cats Alone

Are they healthy, well-fed, and uninjured?
Good body condition is a good indicator that the cat has an owner or caretaker.

Search for an Owner

- Visit multcopets.org/found-pet
- Search “Lost Reports”
- Submit a “Found Pet” Report
- Scan for a microchip at a local vet clinic
- Talk to your neighbors about the cat
- Put up posters in the neighborhood, or flyers door to door
- Post on social media - Facebook & Nextdoor
- Post on Craigslist



Spay & Neuter

Consider Spay & Neuter for healthy outdoor cats if you are unable to locate an owner. This will prevent breeding and overpopulation, and help prevent new cats from moving in.

Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon

For unsocial cats. A Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program providing spay/neuter for outdoor cats who are being fed by a caregiver. FCCO lends out traps, and provides guidance on the process. They can offer volunteer trapping assistance on a limited basis.

- feralcats.com
- 503-797-2606

Spay & Save

For social cats. Low-cost or free spay & neuter surgery for cats. Licensed veterinarians provide surgeries by appointment at different locations - **including MCAS.**

- asapmetro.org/spay-save
- 1-800-345-SPAY



Kittens

Leave Healthy Kittens Alone

Unweaned kittens that are **quiet and clean** have a mother caring for them. Leaving them where they are gives them the best chance of survival.

Kitten Age & Actions

0 - 6 Weeks Old

Leave them in place if they're quiet and clean.

Contact MCAS for intake arrangements if they are sick, injured, in danger, or if they are **loud and soiled** (hungry and not being cleaned).

- **1 - 2 weeks:** Eyes closed or squinting
- **2 - 4 weeks:** Eyes open. They're moving around a little. Ears starting to turn up
- **4 - 6 weeks:** Mobile & noisy. Eating some solid food

6 - 12 Weeks Old

Contact MCAS, Oregon Humane Society, or Cat Adoption Team for intake arrangements. They can be socialized, spayed or neutered, and adopted.

- **6 - 8 weeks:** Active & playful. Weight is 1 to 2 lbs
- **8+ weeks:** 2 lbs or more

12+ Weeks Old

Contact MCAS about intake for social kittens, or bring them inside to see if they settle. If they are unsocial (growling or striking), the socialization window is passed, and the best option is TNR.