

Why is the City of Great Falls Animal Shelter not taking in cats in traps?

Cats in traps are predominately feral. Feral cats are unsocialized outdoor cat who have either never had any physical contact with humans, or human contact has diminished enough over time that they are no longer accustomed to it. Feral cats thrive outdoors and are not reliant on people directly feeding them. They are adept at finding their own meals, from the leftovers people discard to food sources in their natural environment.

Humans are unfamiliar and scary to them. When held captive these animals will fight to get away. This makes them dangerous to themselves, the staff at our facility and unsafe to adopt to the public. As such, feral cats brought into our facility are held and cared for during their legal stray hold time before being euthanized.

This process is traumatic for the cat and the staff. It is also costly.

In 2022
106 feral cats were euthanized

By no longer taking in feral/stray cats we will save the lives of these wild animals that prefer life outdoors.

We will also be able to utilize the precious resources (money, staffing, and space) previously utilized on them for those animals that truly need our care.



CONTACT US



406-454-2276



1010 25th Avenue NE
Great Falls, MT 59404



gfanimalshelter@greatfallsmt.net



greatfallsmt.net/animalshelter



Community Cats

THE GOOD, THE BAD,
AND HOW TO LIVE WITH THEM

Stray/Feral

If the cat did not willingly approach or allow you to touch it, then it is not in need of help or assistance. There are two ways to deal with this community cat.

1. Simply leave it alone.

2. You could TNR the cat. TNR stands for Trap-Neuter-Release. It's important that if you trap a cat you make sure that it is altered (spayed or neutered) and then returned to the same location it came from. This will help control the cat population in the area and keep other cats away.

There is a low cost spay/neuter clinic in Great Falls that may be able to help:

Humane Society of Cascade County
406-452-7729

You do not want to trap and relocate the animal to another area, a shelter, or out of town as that can cause a phenomenon known as the "Vacuum Effect".

Please note: Take a look to see if the cat has the tip of its ear removed. Often times, when a feral cat is altered the vet will take off the tip of its ear as an easy way to identify cats that have already been altered.

Three types of cats

FERAL



- Unsocialized
- Will not approach
- Will avoid Touch
- Can not be picked up

STRAY



- Unsocialized - semi-socialized
- May approach
- Will avoid or allow minimal touch
- May not be picked up

PET



- Well Socialized
- Will approach
- Allows touch
- Can usually be picked up safely

Nuisance Mitigation

5 Quick Tips to Help Keep Cats Out of Your Yard

- Put out fragrances that keep cats away. Scatter fresh orange or lemon peels. Wet coffee grounds, which you may be able to get for free from coffee houses and fast food chains, and metal pans filled with vinegar also deter cats.
- Install ultrasonic deterrents or motion activated sprinklers.
- Block or seal the area where cats enter under the porch/house with chicken wire or lattice, but make sure there are not cats/kittens inside prior.
- Put a tight lid on your trash can.
- Find out if neighbors are feeding the cats. If they are, make sure they are following best practices.

For more information:



Community Cats webpage
and resources



Garden & Yard Cat
Deterrent Video

by:

