



Phoenix Advice

What to do if you have found a cat

www.phoenixasso.com

Found a cat?

1. Make a note of the date, time and area in which you found the cat.
2. Please ensure the cat has access to food and water – this is a basic, humane gesture.
3. Does the cat have a collar? if so are there any details of his owner? Please ensure you check the inside of the collar too. Ask around the local neighbourhood, Mairie, vets, shops, postman/woman, etc.
4. If the cat is undernourished, sick or hurt in any way, contact a vet first.
5. Does the cat have a tattoo in his ear? If so notify the I-CAD (French national ID) - see <http://www.i-cad.fr/index.php> quote the tattoo number and they will give you the details of the cat's owner.
6. It is possible that the cat is microchipped; In this case, take the cat to a vet, charity or the local pound, and they should be able to read the chip number in order to find the cat's owner.
7. Place details on the web site www.chat-perdu.org , here there is a section for found cats. Your local SPA may also have a lost / found section on their website. Please also contact [Pet Alert France](#) – a Facebook group dedicated to finding lost pets. This group is regionalised, so search for and post on your own region's group.
8. Place details and photos on the online groups as set out in the Lost A Cat section above, in order to try and trace the owner.
9. Do an internet search to find details of all animal rescue centres in your area (Association Chat/ Association animal) so that you can inform them and possibly ask for help in finding the cat a permanent home. Notify the local *fourrières* (pounds) – your Mairie should be able to help with this.
10. If possible, take a photo, along with details of the cat (the vet should give you an indication of age, etc.) and make posters. Posters can usually be displayed in the Mairie, La Poste, vet's clinics, supermarkets, outside your house and anywhere else you can think of! Don't forget to add the date and place where you found the cat.
11. All of this can take several weeks, so please be patient. Please note, if you start feeding a cat, you are taking on the responsibility for its welfare.
12. Keep the cat away from your other pets until it's been assessed by a vet as healthy – you don't want to spread any diseases to your existing pets.

13. Another kind gesture would be to give the cat a wormer. Stray animals are often more miserable, hungry and low due to worms. You can buy wormers from the vet or pharmacy.

Taking care of a Stray/Feral Cat

You must think very carefully before feeding a “stray” cat. It may not in fact be a stray at all, if it is friendly, follow the advice given here, and if it is a feral or semi-feral cat, then it will usually fend for itself. In any case, if you are not a permanent resident and if you start to feed the cat over the time you are available, it will become accustomed to being fed and possibly lose the ability to fend for itself once you leave.

If you start to feed a stray / feral can you assume responsibility for this cat for the rest of its life!

Before taking any steps towards looking after a stray cat it is important to follow the checklist at the top of this document, and make sure that it is in fact stray or abandoned. Cats are naturally resourceful creatures and can be independent of their owners. Whilst there are many cats who love lots of attention and cuddles, never roaming far from their owner’s side, there are other cats that are quite happy wandering through fields and gardens.

If it is a feral cat, and you have enough time, you would be well advised to try to catch it to have it neutered (females can have up to 4 litters a year, and once the family tree grows, this will lead to thousands of cats and kittens in just a few years!). Go along to your Mairie to ask if there are any neutering programmes already in place. Check what the Commune’s policy is on feral/stray cats. Some communes have programmes in place to deal with these cats, or ask your local rescue organisations or SPAs if there are any local neutering schemes. Otherwise, dig deep, for the sake of thousands of unwanted kittens!

Finding an Injured Cat

Often, stray cats become injured by traffic. Any injured animal becomes defensive and nervous after injury and cats are no exceptions. An injured cat will lash out if it is scared and will not want to be picked up. If the cat, however, is in a place where he may get further injuries or if he is a risk to others it is important to move him. The safest way of moving an injured cat is to carefully cover him with an old towel or blanket before picking him up. This will contain his legs and more importantly claws. Moving an animal with broken bones, however, is really a specialist task and a call to a local vet before moving it is strongly advised. If the cat is feral and injured, vets are legally obliged to treat their injuries free of charge. This applies to any injured wild animal. Make sure you keep the cat away from your own pets.

Keeping the cat

If all efforts to find the owner fail, you may decide that you'd like to keep the cat yourself. If the SPA has been informed, and all attempts to find the cat's owner have failed, you can have the animal registered in your name after ten days to two weeks. Please assume all other responsibility for owning a pet. You must promise to take this cat on for **his entire life, no matter what**, and please take responsibility to ensure he is safe, fed, watered, vaccinated, and neutered.

If you plan to travel back to the UK or out of France, ensure that your pet is vaccinated against Rabies and has a Pet Passport – your vet can advise you.

(NB: Sometimes, the cat is chipped or tattooed and the owner can't be traced.

In this complex situation, you have a lot of hoops to jump through to ever get him registered in your name, should you want to keep him.

Vets generally can't help (some vets might be prepared to harass I-CAD until they get them to change ownership, others won't) and the only real solution is to take the cat to the SPA, who will keep him for the minimum period of quarantine and then apply to I-CAD to get the ownership transferred to the SPA. The finder can then 'adopt' the cat from the SPA. Some SPAs might be more helpful than others.

The bottom line is that a registered letter has to be sent from I-CAD to the owner's address (if it's proving impossible to get him to respond by mail or phone) and only when I-CAD is satisfied that the cat is to all intents and purposes 'unowned' will they be prepared to re-register him in another person's name.)

Finding a New Home for the Cat

Having taken in this cat, you assume responsibility for what happens next. Thousands of cats are abandoned or lost every year in France and Phoenix receives several calls a week from people wishing to re-home their cat. This combined with our lack of foster space makes it almost impossible to take more in and abandoned kittens have to be priority – often these can wait in Phoenix foster care for homes for up to a year!

However, there ARE things you can do:

Please visit the [Phoenix Advice Centre](#) on the Phoenix website and follow the advice in the "What to do if you want to re-home your animal" guide.

You can also contact your local SPA or refuge, who may be able to take the cat in, although sadly, they are also overcrowded and euthanasia is likely. Please help the SPA by at least trying to re-home the cat first.

List of Useful Contacts:

SPAs

Spa Poitiers

<http://www.spa-poitiers.fr/>

Tel : 05.49.88.94.57

Email: contact@spa-poitiers.fr

Spa Angouleme

<http://www.lesspadefrance.org/>

Tel: 05 45 65 76 99

Spa des Saintes

<http://www.lesspadefrance.org/>

Spa de Perigueux et du Departement de la Dordogne (Marsac)

<http://spa-perigueux.org/en> (English version)

Tel: 05 53 04 16 54

SPA Carcassone

<http://www.dogrescuecarcassonne.co.uk/> (English version)

Tel: 0468 25 35 45

Email: website@dogrescuecarcassonne.co.uk

SPA Bergerac

<http://spa24bergerac.org/>

Tel: 05 53 27 27 50

Associations (animal welfare organisations):

Please do a search for some in your local area.

SOS Chats Libres (Perigueux)

<http://soschatslibres.fr>

Chats du Quercy (S.W. France)

Website: <http://chatsduquercy.fr/en/> (English version)

Tel: 05 63 94 73 97

Email: chatsduquercy@gmail.com

Association Asura (Aquitaine)

Website: <http://asurasosanimauxaquitaine.fr>

Tel: 07 81 45 27 13

Email: <mailto:sosanimauxaquitaine@live.fr>

Association Planning-Chat (La Rochelle)

<http://planningchat17.free.fr/>

Tel: 05 46 51 89 08

Email: planningchat@yahoo.fr

La Protection des Chats (Charente Maritime)

<http://www.la-protection-des-chats.com/>

Ecole du Chat (Poitiers)

<http://ecoleduchat.poitiers.free.fr>

Discounted Sterilisation in Poitiers

<http://ecoleduchat.poitiers.free.fr/pages/actualite.html>

La Sterilisation Animale

<http://sterilisation-animale.blogspot.fr/>

About Phoenix

Phoenix Association is a registered French charity that exists with the sole aim of dealing with the sad plight of the ever-increasing number of animals in need in and around the Dordogne.

We take in abused and abandoned animals, nurturing them in our voluntary network of foster homes and then placing them in loving, permanent homes. We work with maximum care and attention with a small number of animals at a time.

Phoenix is not state-funded, so in order for us to continue our work, **we rely upon donations** to fund our veterinary, fostering and re-homing costs. Every donation that we receive, however large or small, goes towards helping animals in desperate need.

Please visit our website to find out more about our animals available for adoption, foster caring, how to donate, how to join as a Member, and much more.

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