

CATNAP 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' (FAQ)

*This document has been prepared to help in answering questions you may have for CatNap. By placing your computer mouse cursor over **blue** or **gold** color highlighted sections of interest to you, press and hold your keyboard 'Ctrl' button, and then click on the section with your mouse to be redirected through a link for the information. If you still have additional questions thereafter, then please email us at **catnapinfo@shaw.ca***

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What does CatNap do?

CatNap is a registered non-profit society with Canadian charities status, (**CRA# 876967225RR0001**) comprised entirely of volunteer members, who help stray/abandoned domestic cats and kittens and feral (wild) cats/kittens in the Nanaimo area. We trap them as required, seek appropriate medical care and spaying/neutering through our veterinary partners, and if domestic and social enough to adopt, we attempt to do so. In the case of feral cats, cases are managed individually and in a variety of ways depending on the circumstances. We assess each situation to determine what intervention we are able to offer callers, and with the caller's assistance and support as much as possible. We rely entirely on donations from the public and fundraising initiatives to support our mandate.

How does CatNap respond to calls for assistance?

CatNap helps with feral, stray, abandoned cats and kittens whenever possible and upon request from the public. Often trapping is required in order to catch the cat as they are either too scared or feral to come too close to humans. If you know for certain that the cat and kittens do not belong to anyone or have been abandoned, CatNap will organize a meeting with you and bring a trap to your home or business so you can try to trap the cats. CatNap will provide some wet food, a sheet to cover the Cat Trap and show you how to set and operate the trap if you can help us in this way. If you need some assistance with the trapping by a CatNap volunteer then this can be arranged. We ask for you to call us as soon as you see young kittens on your property because if we can get them before they are too old, then they have a chance to be fostered by a volunteer and tamed up for adoption.

If the cat is a feral adult and not a domesticated stray, then it is not possible to tame them. A "feral" cat is one who has either been born feral or reverted to some degree to a wild state. Ferals originate from former domestic cats that were lost or abandoned and then learned to live outdoors or in environments involving little human contact, such as warehouses, farms, factories or abandoned buildings. In most cases, feral cats are not completely wild because they still depend on people for their food source, whether it's a caretaker who comes by once or twice a day, a dumpster outside a restaurant, garbage cans, or the like. Relatively few feral cats subsist only by hunting and even when done this way they don't tend to live more than a couple years because of poor nutrition, lack of clean drinking water, parasitic and other infections, and injuries.

Many people originally ask for feral adult cats to be taken away from their property. These cats have nowhere to else to go once removed, and unfortunately end up euthanized because they are deemed unadoptable. CatNap can help with a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) which respects a feral cat's wild state. The spaying or neutering of the ferals prevents future unwanted litters and suffering and shields the cats from the hostility their behavior might otherwise draw from human neighbors. The return of them to their own territory and the provision of adequate food, water and shelter give them the opportunity to live among their own, to be free and to live out their natural lives in their colony with our support. Usually the person who cares enough to contact us for assistance, has been so kind to help with caring for the colony.

Medical bills can be expensive for Trapping Neutering and Returning Feral cats and any and all donations help us continue caring for colonies and for future TNR projects.

A **stray domesticated cat** can usually be adopted to a loving home. A cat hanging around a residence or business should always receive some assistance and there are many ways to help. Please be advised that CatNap does not have a facility/shelter such as SPCA and Nanaimo Animal Control Services do. We rely on volunteer foster homes to provide care for our adoptable cats until a suitable

home can be found. We may ask you to take the cat to the SPCA or Nanaimo Animal Control Services and surrender it as a stray if we do not have the ability to help based on resources. Please take care that the cat being surrendered to the shelter is domestic and not feral because feral cats are not deemed adoptable and will be euthanized (see link below on how to tell the difference).

Feral and Stray Cats—An Important Difference

Feral, stray, and pet cats are all members of the same species; they are all domestic cats. But stray cats and feral cats are also different from each other in a very important way—in their relationship to and interactions with people.

Whether you are a shelter worker, veterinarian, or feral cat advocate—or you just share your neighborhood with feral cats—knowing how to tell the difference can help inform how best to interact with a cat or what, if any, intervention would be in each cat's best interest.

Learn about feral cats and Trap-Neuter-Return:

- What is a *feral cat*?
- What is the *difference between a stray cat and a feral cat*?
- Where do *feral cats come from*?
- How do I *tell the difference when the cats are outdoors*?
- How do I *tell feral and stray cats apart once I have trapped them*?
- Why *does it matter*?
- What is *Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)*?
- What is an *'eartip'*?
- Isn't it *unsafe for feral cats to live outside*?
- Why *can't feral cats be socialized and then adopted into homes*?
- What *happens to feral cats when they are brought to most shelters*?
- Why *doesn't removing feral cats from an area work*?
- What *can I do to help feral cats*?

Learn more about caring for outdoor cats:

- I don't want cats in my yard. How can I *deter cats* and peacefully live with them in my neighborhood?
- I need to *relocate* a cat/colony. Should I do this? How do I do this?
- Can you give me advice for *how to care for a sick or injured cat*?
- I think someone *poisoned/injured my cat(s)*. What can I do?
- How do I build/where can I find *shelters* for my outdoor cats?
- How do I build/where can I find *feeding stations* for my outdoor cats?

Learn more about advocating for cats:

- The property manager in my community/at a local store/office park wants the *cats removed*. What do I do?

Found Cat(s)/kitten(s) hanging around my home/business scenarios:

Friendly healthy Cat scenario:

Q: There is a friendly healthy cat/kitten that is hanging around my house/business. I can pet it and it's friendly. What should I do?

A: Cats like to wander. It is very possible that it is just visiting to say hello. Check the cat's right ear first and see if you can see a tattoo and write it down. It will begin with a letter(s), followed by number(s), followed by another single letter. If you have the tattoo number you can call any vet and they can help direct you to which vet may have the owner's info to try to contact them.

A highly recommended and easy thing to do is to try the "paper collar trick." This is an investigative method whereby a note is attached with the cat to see if any owners respond. You can either make a collar yourself out of long cut paper strips or you can stop by the local SPCA and ask for a free plastic collar. Write on the paper/plastic collar *"Is this your cat? Please call (area code)-your-number. I think it is lost and will take to the SPCA if no one calls"*. If you make a paper collar then it's good to put tape on the front and back of the paper to make it more weather resistant and then tape the end together for securing on the cats neck leaving 2 flat fingers of space between the neck and the collar. It is also helpful to make a few spares in case one falls off. If someone calls within three days then you know it is someone's cat. We ask you to put out a fresh bowl of water and a bit of cat food so the cat will stay close until someone calls. If the weather is poor, a little covered area would help the cat stay warm and dry with a towel to lay on while you wait for a response. Most lost animals belong in the neighborhoods where they are found and the guardians may be frantically looking for their pet. If you stop by the SPCA tell them the tattoo number (if it has one) and give them the description of the cat/kitten and your location/phone number in case someone has reported it missing. The SPCA asks everyone to go to their lost and found website to upload information/pictures of cats that you find and also to search there for cats that are missing. The website is: <http://www.bcpetsearch.com> You can also call the Animal Control Services provider for your area and see if anyone has made a missing report for the cat.

Nanaimo SPCA: 154 Westwood Rd, Nanaimo. Phone number: (250) 741- 0778

Nanaimo Animal Control Services 1260 Nanaimo Lakes Rd., Nanaimo Phone Number: 250-616-0233

RDN DISTRICT = Coastal Animal Services: 2202 Herd Rd, Duncan Phone number: 1-888-754-1397

- Cedar
- Gabriola Island
- Lantzville
- Errington
- Whiskey Creek
- Bowser

Bringing the animal to your local animal shelter is an option but moving the animal from the neighbourhood reduces the chances that the pet will be reunited with his guardian. A trip to the local shelter is also a very traumatic experience for an animal. So if you are able, take some time to find the guardian on your own. Below are some tips to help you find a lost animal's way home.

If no one has called about the cat after three days and you have tried other methods outlined below to find the cat's owner then please call the SPCA or Animal Control Services and pre-arrange to bring the

cat in. Sometimes there might be a bit of a wait because of influx of cats being surrendered but they will arrange for the cat to be brought in as soon as possible. Please continue feeding and providing fresh water and some shelter while you wait for a spot.

Look for identification (ID)

We encourage all animal guardians to ensure their pets have at least one of the following forms of identification.

- **Collar and/or ID tag** - does the cat have a collar with an ID tag? The tag may have the animal's home number or home address that will help you track down his family.
- **Ear tattoo**
If the animal that you have found has a legible tattoo number in the ear, you can check the [list of all BC veterinarian tattoo codes](#) then contact the corresponding vet to report the found animal. If you cannot find a corresponding code, it may be that the animal was tattooed in another province or state.
- **Other Tattoos**
Some purebred animals may have a breeder tattoo on their abdomen or inside leg. This is only traceable through the original breeder.
- **Microchip**
Microchips are a form of electronic identification that is inserted under the animal's skin. Unfortunately, you will have no way of knowing if an animal has a microchip. You must take the animal to a veterinary clinic, Animal Control Services, or a [BC SPCA shelter](#) to have the animal scanned for a microchip.
- **Use the internet.** There are many websites dedicated to helping lost and found animals be returned to their guardians. The following sites include Canada, and may be a valuable resource for you to post either a lost or found animal, as well as search the listings to see if your missing pet is among them.

BC SPCA Pet Search: www.bcpetsearch.com

PetFinder: www.petfinder.org

PetLynx: www.petlynx.net

FACEBOOK lost and found pet pages for Nanaimo:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194879610565669/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nanaimo-Lost-and-Found-Pets/254930504527581>

FACEBOOK Nanaimo SPCA, Nanaimo Animal Control Services and Coastal Animal Services (RDN) Pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/bcspca.nanaimo>

<https://www.facebook.com/nanaimoanimalcontrol/?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Coastal-Animal-Services/126705660749946/?fref=ts>

FACEBOOK Nanaimo Pet pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NanaimoPetDiscussionsNPictures/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NanaimoPetSwapNShop/>

- Put up "Found Pet" posters. When you create an account at **BC SPCA Pet Search:** www.bcpetsearch.com, you are given the option to create a FREE poster that includes a photo of the animal (if possible); description of the animal; where it was found and a contact

telephone number. Post them in as many places as possible: around the site where the animal was found; grocery and corner stores; local parks; telephone poles etc., vets.

- Talk to people in the neighbourhood, especially other pet guardians.
- Contact your local [BC SPCA shelter](#) or Animal Control Services to report the animal lost. Let them know that you are willing to hold onto the animal until the guardian comes forward.
- Contact local veterinary clinics, many of them also keep lost and found animal records. They also can help pinpoint the vet who put the tattoo in the cat's ear and give you the name and phone number to contact them in hopes that an up to date record will be on file for its owner's name and phone number.
- Check the "Lost" section in the Classifieds.
- **Don't forget!** If you find the guardian, as a courtesy, please remember to contact the groups keeping records and let them know so they can take the animal off their records.

Friendly Sick Looking Cat Scenario:

Q: There is a friendly very sick looking cat hanging around my house/business. I can pet it and its friendly what should I do?

A: Take the cat inside your home to a bathroom or laundry room and shut the door. Ask a friend or family member if you can borrow their pet carrier and take it to the vet immediately that same day as soon as possible. (Keep it away from your other pets or young children so it doesn't get scared and panic). In Nanaimo, Island Veterinary Hospital can help take this cat if you bring it in to them. You will not have to pay for the cat's medical care but it will be necessary to sign a stray surrender paper so they can pass the care of the cat over to the SPCA or animal control. This helps the SPCA or animal control have info for where the cat was found in the city, and be able to call if they have any questions.

Unapproachable healthy looking Cat Scenario:

Q: There is a cat hanging around my home/business. I cannot get near it but it looks healthy and clean. What should I do?

A: Not all cats are super friendly. Some keep their distance from strangers. If it looks healthy it is more often than not that he has a home. If the cat starts to look thin or sick then this would be cause for some concern. Please email CatNap for advice and help in this situation. In the meantime please put out some fresh water and some cat food for the cat. If it's cold a little covered area and a towel to lie on out of the rain or snow will help.

Unapproachable unhealthy looking cat Scenario:

Q: There is a cat hanging around my home/business. I cannot get near it but it looks very dirty, or sick, or skinny.

A: Please put out some cat food and fresh water for the cat and contact CatNap for advice and help in this situation.

Pregnant or just given birth cat Scenario (with or without seeing kittens):

Q: There is a cat hanging around my home/business. I think it's pregnant or has had kittens what should I do? **A:** Please put out some cat food and fresh water for the cat and contact CatNap for advice and help in this situation.

Kitten Scenario:

Q: There is/are kitten(s) hanging around my home/business. What should I do?

A: Please put out some canned cat food and fresh water for the kitten(s) and contact CatNap for advice and help in this situation.

Will CatNap take a cat that someone wishes to surrender?

Q: I or someone I know is not able to have my cat(s) anymore. Will CatNap take it? What should I do?

A: CatNap is completely made up of community volunteers and does not have a shelter. We do not take in cats that an owner wants to surrender. However the SPCA and many local Animal Control Services do have shelters and will take in surrendered cats. They ask if you can please call first because there can be a waiting time. Call them as soon as you can because in some cases the wait may be months. We ask the owner to always do a Google search to see if the reason they may want to give up the cat can be solved. In many cases cats are given up because of behavioral problems but many times this can be solved or at least quieted down some and a Google search can help to give answers. Sometimes YouTube will even show videos on how to help solve behavioral problems. Also another common concern for people many times is that they have to move and they can't find a place that allows cats. There are many different resources to find rentals that allow a cat or other pets. Some are listed below:

<http://www.247apartments.com/Search/>

<http://www.freerentads.com/rentals-properties-for-rent-chemainus-british-columbia-canada-QQNZ4452-5aZKgE>

If looking for a pet friendly HOUSE then some can be listed on Kijiji, Used Nanaimo and others. . . but there are also real estate firms and property management companies in every city who rent out pet friendly houses. You can either call them directly or look at pet friendly homes on their websites. Sometimes you will need to click on the home to see if it is pet friendly. Ones that are good for Nanaimo are:

http://www.coastrealty.com/new/public/menu_rent.php

<http://www.islandrent.com/rentals/>

<http://www.ardentproperties.com/showrentals.php>

If you believe there is no other choice but to find a new home for your cat then before surrendering it to the SPCA or your local animal control service provider, please try to find a new home using the buy/sell internet sites and asking friends and family first. They can help share your need for rehoming your cat for you on social media as well. Looking for a new family yourself gives you the ability to screen the new home and make sure the new adopter will work out well.

We always recommend putting a small adoption fee on the cat even if it is the cost of a bag of cat food that you will give to the new owner, or at least ask them adoption questions similar to what you will find if you Google “cat adoption application sheet.” Where can you look for a new home for your cat?

See below:

<http://nanaimo.kijiji.ca/>

<http://www.usednanaimo.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NanaimoPetSwapNShop/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NanaimoPetDiscussionsNPictures/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/443094369060480/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366350533414344/>

If you really need a rescue that can take your “special needs” cat after no luck trying to find a new home yourself, then please check below for a few rescues who may be able to help. More options can be found through Googling rescues in your city or Vancouver Island/ B.C. Some rescues as listed below can help with special needs rehoming, and cats with diseases/viruses. Rescues are always appreciative if people can try to rehome their cats themselves. This then leaves space for those that don’t have this option.

Victoria Area:

Greater Victoria Animal Crusaders: <http://gvacrescue.com/>

GVAC is a Non-Profit Registered Charity. We are 100% volunteer run, so every penny goes to help animals in need. We depend solely on donations, legacies, and fundraisers to continue our mission to help save animals lives

Broken Promises Rescue: (Pamela) <https://brokenpromisesrescue.wordpress.com/>

Animal Rescue and Rehab for homeless pets throughout BC

Cat’s Cradle Animal Rescue: <http://catscradleanimalrescue.com/>

Rescue, rehabilitate, spay/neuter, and re-home distressed, abandoned, or neglected cats and dogs considered unadoptable by reason of health, age, appearance, or temperament.

Victoria Pets Adoption Society: <http://victoriapets.ca/>

A volunteer run, registered charitable foundation in Victoria, BC, Canada. VPAS' goal is to rehabilitate homeless animals and place them into great homes. VPAS provides medical care for all of their adoptees, ensuring that their vaccinations are up to date, and that all adoptees are spayed/neutered and tattooed (when possible).

Helping Homeless Cats of Greater Victoria: <http://helpinghomelesscats.com/>

Helping Homeless Cats is a volunteer-run organization dedicated to rescuing stray domestic and feral cats in the Greater Victoria area. When we have room and resources, we take the unadoptable cats such as seniors who are not good candidates for Animal Control (the Pound) or SPCA.

Parksville:

Flying Fur Animal Rescue & Refuge: flyingfurrescue@gmail.com

Rescue and shelter for pets that need a new home and a refuge for animals when owners can no longer care for their pets and can continue to visit them.

Near Vancouver:

Katie's Place Animal Shelter: <http://katiesplaceshelter.com/>

We are a no-kill shelter run entirely by volunteers in Maple Ridge, BC Canada. They take FIV positive AND Feline leukemia positive cats and cats with other special needs.

Richmond Animal Protection Services: <http://rapsbc.ca/>

The Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS) runs the city shelter of Richmond, BC, Canada and the largest cat sanctuary in North America. They take FIV positive AND Feline Leukemia positive cats and others with special needs.

My Cat had kittens. Will CatNap take them for me?

CatNap recommends calling the SPCA if your cat had kittens because they can help spay your mother cat for free if you surrender all the kittens to them. If for some reason the SPCA cannot take the kittens, then please contact us for assistance.

I lost my Cat what should I do?

Losing a pet is a traumatic experience for you, your family and your pet. The following are some tips for finding your lost pet.

Search your neighbourhood

Walk or drive through your neighbourhood several times a day, especially early in the morning and at dusk. Ask neighbours and their children (kids often know more about the neighbourhood than working parents), letter carriers, joggers, garbage collectors, newspaper carriers and others to look out for your pet.

Use the internet

There are many websites dedicated to helping lost and found animals be returned to their guardians. The following sites include Canada, and may be a valuable resource for you to post either a lost or found animal, as well as search the listings to see if your missing pet is among them.

- **BC SPCA Pet Search:** www.bcpetsearch.com
- **PetFinder:** www.petfinder.org
- **PetLynx:** www.petlynx.net
- **Kijiji**
- **Craigslist**

FACEBOOK lost and found pet pages for Nanaimo:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194879610565669/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nanaimo-Lost-and-Found-Pets/254930504527581>

FACEBOOK Nanaimo SPCA, Nanaimo Animal Control Services and Coastal Animal Services (RDN) Pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/bcspca.nanaimo>

<https://www.facebook.com/nanaimoanimalcontrol/?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Coastal-Animal-Services/126705660749946/?fref=ts>

FACEBOOK Nanaimo Pet pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NanaimoPetDiscussionsNPictures/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NanaimoPetSwapNShop/>

Put up eye-catching posters

Put up "Lost Pet" posters. When you create an account at **BC SPCA Pet Search:**

www.bcpetsearch.com, you are given the option to create a FREE poster that includes a photo of the animal; description of the animal; where it was lost and a contact telephone number. Post them in as many places as possible: around the site where the animal was lost; grocery and corner stores; local parks; telephone poles etc.

Consider offering a nominal reward. Beware of callers who say they have your pet and demand you send them money for the animal's return. Withhold one of your pet's identifying characteristics so you can verify the honesty of a caller who is claiming to have found your pet.

Place an ad in the paper

Place an ad in the lost column of local newspapers. Since many papers allow people to put "found" ads for free, check newspapers daily in case someone is trying to find you!

Visit animal shelters

Go and personally visit the animal shelters in your area in addition to phoning them. Often shelters have many animals that might match your pet and workers are often too busy to handle phone calls. Visit the shelter every 24 hours. There is usually only a small holding time before an animal goes up for adoption.

Nanaimo SPCA: 154 Westwood Rd, Nanaimo. Phone: (250) 741- 0778

Check animal control (City Pound for Nanaimo) - Nanaimo Animal Control Services: 1260 Nanaimo Lakes Rd, Nanaimo. Phone number: (250) 616-0233

Check animal control (City Pound for RDN areas) – Coastal Animal Services: 2202 Herd Rd. Duncan. Phone Number: 1-888-754-1397

Check animal hospitals and vet clinics

If your pet was injured he or she may have been taken to a nearby veterinarian or animal hospital before being taken to an animal shelter.

Contact "animal find" organizations

Some communities have non-profit groups who have formed a network to assist people who have lost a pet. When you visit your Animal Control shelter, ask if such a network exists in your area. Try looking in the newspaper classified ads for these groups or ask at a pet store. If you use one of these services remember to give a donation so they can continue to help others. Some of these groups may charge a nominal service fee.

Try the power of scent

Try placing a recently worn piece of clothing outside. Animals have a keen sense of smell and familiar smells can bring them home. For indoor cats, place their litter box outside.

Was your pet stolen?

It is far more likely your pet has strayed from home than he or she has been stolen. If you have evidence that leads you to believe your pet was stolen, contact police and your local **BC SPCA** or Animal Control agency. Permanent identification in the form of tattooing or a microchip implant can help authorities track your animal.

Don't give up!

Continue to search for your pet even when there is little hope. Some animals that have been lost for months have been reunited with their guardians.

Prevention

Stray animals that have some form of **identification** (ID) have a much better chance of finding their way home. So if your pet doesn't have ID - **DO IT TODAY!** The BC SPCA has an information leaflet about the "**Importance of Identification for Pets**" & "**Finding a Lost Pet**" available for download in Adobe Acrobat PDF format (261Kb).

- **Don't forget!**

If you find your pet, as a courtesy, please remember to contact the groups keeping records and let them know so they can take the animal off their records.

Where can I buy, rent, or borrow a cat trap?

Cat traps can be bought from stores such as Buckerfields and Share-Kare in Nanaimo

Traps can be borrowed from Nanaimo Animal Control Services.

Nanaimo Animal Control Services: 1260 Nanaimo Lakes Rd, Nanaimo. Phone: (250) 616-0233

CatNap can occasionally help to loan out a cat trap providing that you will take full responsibility for the trap and if not returned within 5 days, or returned in a broken state, you will accept liability to provide CatNap with the dollar amount required to purchase a new one by the CatNap member within 2 weeks of first borrowing the trap. There will be a 'loan form' that you will be required to sign to that effect and a deposit given. CatNap does not have many traps and a lot of our Volunteers trappers are steadily having them in use. So please kindly understand if we do not have any available at the time you might need one. It would be in use helping other cats.

Where can I learn how to trap?

CatNap uses two very good feral cat rescue websites for information in training for trapping.

http://www.neighborhoodcats.org/HOW_TO_TRAPPING_THE_BASICS
<http://www.alleycat.org/page.aspx?pid=330>

There are also videos available to watch such as:

<http://vimeo.com/43420504>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=STZrgEJz_mi

Ear Tattoo codes for all of BC helpful reference sheet of the vet and phone number.

Here is a link to a sheet with all the vet codes for B.C. If you can see a tattoo in a cat's ear the vet who did it should be on the list unless it was a breeder or the cat was done in another province or state. You can help the SPCA and Animal Control Services by contacting a vet directly to see if they can contact the owners of the cat.

<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/assets/documents/pet-care/bc-tattoo-codes-2012.pdf>

Some cats will have a microchip instead of a tattoo or used in conjunction with a tattoo. Microchips are a form of electronic identification that is inserted under the animal's skin. Unfortunately, you will have no way of knowing if an animal has a microchip. You must take the animal to a veterinary clinic, Animal Control Services centre, or a **BC SPCA shelter** to have the animal scanned for a microchip.

My cat(s)/kitten(s) needs to be spayed or neutered. Are there any low income Spay and Neuter options for me?

Please contact Nanaimo SPCA directly for information on the 'Low Income Spay & Neuter Program' (SNIP). Eligibility for the program is based on income.

154 Westwood Road
Nanaimo, B.C.
(250) 741-0778
nanaimo@spca.bc.ca

I know of someone who is being cruel/hurting/abandoning cats and or kittens?

The BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has launched a new animal abuse hotline to respond to complaints of animal cruelty and neglect across the province.

Calls to the **new toll-free hotline (1-855-622-7722)** are fielded by staff at a Victoria-based BC SPCA Call Centre and details are dispatched to regionally based SPCA constables for investigation. The call centre is open seven days per week from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If this is an animal emergency outside of these hours, please contact your **local police department** or **RCMP**.

Do you have any cats or kittens for adoption? How can I find them?

Many of our kittens and cats that come up for adoption are shown on our facebook page. Sometimes cats may be in an adoption location before a chance to be shown on Facebook or they may be adopted before we have a chance to update, so please check in with the adoption locations listed below to see if your new best friend is waiting there to meet you.

<https://www.facebook.com/catnapsociety>

Additionally, our cats and kittens that we have helped to rescue can be seen and adopted at the following Pet store adoption centres:

- **Bosley's Bowen**
#5 - 1708 Bowen Road
Nanaimo
(250) 753-9841
- **Bosley's University Village Mall**
530 Fifth Street
Nanaimo
(250) 754-5465
- **Petsmart**
6894 Island Hwy
Nanaimo
(250) 390-7418

It is recommended to give the store(s) a call first before you visit, to see what cat/kitten inventory they have at a particular time as it can vary throughout the year.

What sort of Volunteer work does CatNap need help with?

CatNap needs volunteers for all aspects of our rescue work. Some of the volunteer areas are:

Trappers: Trappers dedicate a lot of time to helping the cats physically out in the wild. These volunteers are able to volunteer time frames after work and set traps and either take the cat back to a heated garage or shed that night for the next Morning neutering/spaying or being able to pick up the cat first thing in the morning and dropping off at the vet. The cat never is removed from the trap until after surgery. A person who is semi-retired or fully retired also could help greatly for trapping projects. Sometimes a trapping project can take one day and in other scenarios of a large colony it can take a couple weeks. Trapping can also be done through the day but vet appointments are always in the morning of the next day. In many cases the person who called for help can also assist in resetting traps for trappers and call when a cat has been trapped. CatNap is always looking for trappers. If you are able to help trap and have the time available please email us.

Foster Homes: CatNap is always looking for foster homes. Please see our ***'How you can help'*** link on the left side of our website www.catnapsociety.com Once on the page scroll down to the bottom for our volunteer application form which can be printed out, scanned and emailed back to us. We need foster homes to help tame feral kittens and also homes able to foster domestic kittens/adult cats. Many times we will trap a mother and kittens and need to split them up for socializing and taming of the feral kittens and the domestic mother who needs to be worked with. One-on-one time is very important to help these cats come around and trust humans. The reward of seeing them go from trap to lying in your lap is so rewarding. Feral kittens do best to be in a room with normal daily noises such as an entertainment room, living room, or a dining room next to a living room. The first couple days they will be very frightened and only face touching will be done through their dog kennel they start out in. Then a progression will be made to petting them in the kennel, and then on to carefully picking them up while holding under bum and wrapping them in a towel to hold and pet while you watch T.V. They usually let you know when they are comfortable by laying closer to the front of the kennel that is closest to the kennel door, showing content eyes, playing more, and eating in front of you. For adult cats we have a very hard time finding foster homes that have time to work with and successfully socialize them. However, even if you work during the day, fostering is still able to be done successfully. Time commitment for fostering can vary depending on the level of domestication the cat has when arriving.

Fundraising: CatNap looks for any volunteers/community members who would like to have a fundraising event for CatNap, or who would like to be part of its fundraising events/committee. All our donations come from the community and without the generous donations we receive, CatNap would not be able to help the cats. If you would like to have any sort of event for CatNap please send us an email. Examples of some fundraising ideas are:

- 1) Car wash
- 2) Garage sale with proceeds going towards helping CatNap.
- 3) Bottle drive
- 4) Any local business who would like a day/week/month with certain % of profits going to CatNap.
- 5) Hairdresser having a day where \$5 or more of each hair clip goes towards CatNap.
- 6) A business wanting to hold a raffle for something they sell in their store.
- 7) Schools who might like to help.
- 8) Car Dealerships helping with a donation for each car sold in a month.
- 9) Christmas tree chipping by donation.
- 10) BBQ at Country Grocers.

- 11) Realtors or businesses will donate \$1 to CatNap for every new like on the facebook page.
- 12) Auctioning off something you create.
- 13) Lemonade stand.
- 14) Dinner night with friends by donation

Colony Care Givers: Colony care givers are volunteers who would like to help a colony by stopping at the colony location on certain days to fill up food dishes, water dishes, and to check the shelters and cats to see they are ok. We also look for anyone who would like to volunteer by constructing some cat shelters for winter time. They are similar to an insulated dog house and help to keep the cats warm and dry. Feeding stations also are very helpful for the cats and keeps their food dry and in some situations off the ground so raccoons can't get to it.

Cleaners: CatNap has a few holding and recovery sheds where feral cats can wait before and after the spay or neuter. These locations are very helpful to CatNap and if anyone would like to help volunteer to keep them disinfected and tidy, CatNap and the cats could very much use the help. Even one or two days a week for 40 minutes can help greatly.

Drivers: Drivers help CatNap by transporting cats to and/or from vet appointments, to foster homes, and to adoption center locations. CatNap also looks for volunteer drivers to help distribute food, and other cat items to colony Colony Care Givers, foster homes, and holding facilities cats may be at.

Grant Application Writers: CatNap is looking to establish a group of volunteers who can research and help write grant applications for CatNap. If CatNap could acquire a grant then it would open many possibilities for helping cats.

Education Volunteers: Do you have experience speaking in front of a large group of individuals? Are you able to assemble information pamphlets and create educational materials with some investigational research? There are many possibilities for sharing awareness of Abandoned and feral cats in our community and CatNap would benefit from volunteers who would like to help spread the word on the importance of spaying and neutering cats and how to save the lives of cats who may need help. Schools, senior homes, malls, television, and radio are some of the many ways we could help to inform, educate and spread awareness to people in our community.

Photographers and Story Writers for publications: CatNap has many cats and while we try to get as many recorded photos and stories of them as possible, we sometimes miss out. CatNap has considered making "before and after" photos and turning them into a book or calendar to help raise proceeds that can go towards helping more cats. Currently we have no one who would be able to help in this area. Alternatively many cats go to our adoption center locations and photos could be taken there and shared on our Facebook page and Website to let everyone know they are waiting for their forever home. Even photos of cats helped by CatNap could be very useful for a publication project that may arise in the future. The stories of the cats are all unique and each one is special which would be wonderful to link to the photos.