

FOUND CAT? Cats Protection - Harlow, Epping Forest & District Branch

Thanks for reporting a found cat. We will check any details you provide against our Lost Cat register.

First of all, if the cat appears ill or injured, please get it to a vet. Vets are obliged to provide emergency treatment, but it helps them if you call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 BEFORE taking it to get a reference number which allows the vet to reclaim the cost from the charity. The vet will also check it for a chip. If you are in or near Harlow you can also contact the RSPCA Clinic at The Stow – see www.rspcastortvalley.org.uk.

To see if the cat has a home, ask around locally or try putting posters up. Some cats are just opportunists looking for food and attention despite having a home, so if you can approach the cat you can put a paper collar on it with a message: *If this is your cat please call (your number)*. Here is a link to an RSPCA pattern for a [paper collar](#), or contact us and we can post you one. If no result from that:

- Get the cat to a vet to check for a microchip. If you need to borrow a trap or basket, please [email us](#).
- If you can get a **photo and description (any distinctive markings and e.g. friendly, timid), plus when and where found**, please publicise according to the information here www.cats.org.uk/harlow/lost-and-found. Do also look at the “lost cats” listed in the links and sites quoted there too.

Please forward the same information to us for our Lost and Found register. If you don't have access to social media, let us know and we can use it for you. Do let us know how you wish to be contacted by anyone who has lost the cat (phone, email etc) – we will put these details on facebook/web page. Send to cpharlowlostandfound@gmail.com.

We do need this information on the cat before we can help and will wait to receive it before publicising the cat. However, if you cannot get a photo, get back to us and we will do our best.

- If the cat appears neglected or hungry, please provide food, water and basic shelter from wet/cold weather. You may be advised by others not to do this as you will be encouraging the cat and it may well have other people feeding it as well, but if the cat has no-one to feed it it cannot easily fend for itself and will suffer. Some cared-for elderly cats may look thin, though. There are ideas for shelters made from plastic or even cardboard boxes or bins on the web.

If someone claims the cat (especially a pedigree), try to get them to demonstrate the cat is theirs before handing it over, e.g. with a photo, or a description of some distinctive feature.

In dealing with strays we usually have to prioritise the desperate cases (e.g. mothers with kittens), so may not be able to take the cat in immediately but if, after a couple of weeks or so, it is still around and not claimed and you cannot take it on or find someone who can, you can get back to us, preferably by email. If you do decide to take it on we can help with getting it neutered if cost would be an issue. If you already have a cat, there is advice on integration here: http://www.cats.org.uk/uploads/documents/cat-care-leaflets-2013/EG11_Cats_living_together.pdf and http://www.cats.org.uk/uploads/documents/cat-care-leaflets-2013/EG02_Welcome_home.pdf

BRANCH GENERAL CONTACTS

T: 0333 200 1484

catsharlow@dsl.pipex.com

Facebook: @catsprotectionharlow

