

I met up with a feral cat, what can I do?

What is a feral cat?

A FERAL CAT is generally wild and unfriendly...and deathly afraid of people. The cat has never had human contact. Had it been touched and handled as a young kitten, it would have been a domestic friendly pet cat. Trying to touch or pet or handle a cat of this type is dangerous and can lead to bodily harm.

How is a feral cat different from a stray?

A STRAY CAT is a pet cat that has been abandoned (dumped by people). It may be friendly for a while, but once chased off (or worse) by people, it will appear timid and frightened at first until it learns to trust you through your repeated contact with food.

What can I do to help?

1. Identify the number of cats.
2. Try to see if any are tame (if they will come to you). DO NOT ATTEMPT to physically handle the cat(s) at this time. If it will voluntarily enter a carrier, then you will be lucky.
3. Set up a feeding station (with water).
4. Consistently feed every day at the same time. Cats will learn the routine and be waiting for you.
5. Get help to start trapping and transport the cats to a reputable rescue cattery for strays and ferals.
6. Observe weather conditions so that temporary shelter (boxes) can be set up and food sheltered from rain or inclement weather.
7. Observe seasons to make sure a mom cat is not trapped with kittens abandoned to starve to death. Remember: once trapped, many cats will never re-enter a trap.

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