

“Community cat” is a term that refers to any cat who lives outdoors AND is unowned. Community cats include both stray and feral cats.



STRAY

A stray cat is an outdoor cat who was socialized to people at some point in their life, but has been abandoned or has left or lost their home. A stray cat can become feral as their contact with humans decreases over time.

- **May look dirty and ungroomed**
- **Skinny body**
- **Positive body language – tail up, makes eye contact w/blinks, may want petting**
- **Probably lives alone**
- **Possibly friendly towards people**
- **Meows or purrs around humans**
- **Possibly more active during the day**
- **Could be microchipped**



FERAL

A feral cat is an unsocialized outdoor cat who has either never had any physical contact with humans, or human contact has diminished over time that they are now fearful of people. Feral cats are not likely to enjoy living indoors.

- **Appears clean and well-groomed**
- **Muscular body; appears well-fed**
- **Negative body language – tail down, avoids eye contact, stays low to ground**
- **Can live alone or as part of a colony**
- **Fearful or aggressive around people**
- **Silent around humans except for hissing**
- **Tend to be more active at night**
- **Not microchipped, but may have ear tip**



860.242.9999

Helpline@ourcompanions.org
OurCompanions.org

