



Do you have an indoor-only cat that slipped outside?

- If you haven't already, put smelly(wet) cat food outside along with something with the smell of home (bedding, clothes you've worn, scent items from other pets in the home, etc.) Cats that aren't used to going outside usually hide very close by, and your cat may just need a scent reminder to be coaxed back home.
- Ideally, the items should be placed near the spot where your pet escaped. If you have a security camera, place it where it will capture an image if your cat comes around. It will usually be during the night.
- If your cat is coming around but still not coming inside when given that opportunity, you may need to safely capture with a humane trap. LARG can help with this if you are in an area that we serve. We can also advise and coach you! **The attached information from the Missing Animal Response Network reviews this procedure.
- Let your neighbors know to check garages, sheds, under decks and in shrubs. It is highly recommended that you go yourself and check, with your neighbors' permission. Cats will often duck into an open shed, garage or even a vehicle--and then get closed inside.
- After dark, take a flashlight out and look under shrubs, cars etc., and look for shining eyes!
- Post flyers in a 3-5 block radius. Someone may be seeing your cat but doesn't know who to call.
- Be assured, many indoor cats will show up within a week to 10 days on their own, strolling in the door like nothing has happened.

****INFORMATION ON LOST INDOOR CATS FROM MISSING ANIMAL RESPONSE NETWORK****

If your indoor-only cat has escaped and is somewhere outside or in unfamiliar territory, there is good news — your cat is probably not “lost” at all! In most cases, a cat that is unexpectedly transplanted into an unfamiliar area is considered a **DISPLACED CAT**. Most cases of displacement involve indoor-only cats that escape outside.

However, outdoor-access cats can become displaced as well.

When cats are displaced into an unfamiliar area, the cat is **most likely hiding in silence**, often not far from the escape point, and they **will not meow!** This is because cats are territorial and their primary protective measure from predators is to hide in silence. Cats that are afraid (and cats that are injured) will seek areas of concealment such as under a deck, under a house, under a porch, or in heavy brush and **they will not meow!** Meowing would give up their location to a predator. Their behavior has nothing to do with whether the cat loves you, whether it recognizes your voice, or whether it can smell you—it has everything to do with the fact that a frightened cat will hide in silence!

The method that Kat Albrecht and her network have pioneered (starting back in 1999) that has resulted in the recovery of thousands of “missing” indoor-only cats (and displaced outdoor-access cats) is the same method used to capture *feral cats*—the use of a humane trap. We call this “trap-and-reunite” or “TAR.” These wire cages are available for rental from your local shelter or veterinarian or for sale at hardware stores, pet stores, or online. Humane traps have a trip mechanism that when triggered by a cat (or another small animal), will shut the door and contain a cat inside. We **highly** recommend the Tru-Catch brand of humane traps. Most likely you won't find these traps at the local hardware store, but you can order them on-line at <http://www.trucatchtraps.com>.