


[Hub](#) | [ScienceDirect](#) | [Scopus](#) | [SciTopics](#) | [Applications](#)
[Register](#) | [Login](#) | [Go to SciVal Suite](#)

 You have **Guest** access to ScienceDirect
[Find out more...](#)
[Home](#) | [Browse](#) | [Search](#) | [My settings](#) | [My alerts](#) | [Shopping cart](#)
[Help](#)
 All fields Author
 Journal/Book title Volume Issue Page
[Search ScienceDirect](#)[Advanced search](#)[Search tips](#)[Purchase](#)[Export citation](#)
[Abstract](#) | [Article](#) | [Figures/Tables](#) | [References](#)
Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery
 Volume 12, Issue 8, August 2010, Pages 592-600
doi:10.1016/j.jfms.2010.02.001 | [How to Cite or Link Using DOI](#)[Permissions & Reprints](#)

Cited By in Scopus (0)

A survey of the methods used in shelter and rescue programs to identify feral and frightened pet cats

 Margaret R. Slater DVM, PhD¹, , Katherine A. Miller PhD, CAAB, CPDT², Emily Weiss PhD, CAAB³, Kathleen V. Makolinski DVM⁴, Lila A.M. Weisbrot BA⁵
¹ Animal Health Services, ASPCA, 1717 South Philo Road, Suite 36, Urbana, IL 61802, United States

² National Programs, ASPCA, 520 Eighth Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018, United States

³ Shelter Research and Development, ASPCA, 2672 SW Indianola, Benton, KS 67017, United States

⁴ Animal Health Services, ASPCA, PO Box 1144, Orchard Park, NY 14127, United States

⁵ Psychology Department, Hunter College of the City University of New York, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065-5085, United States


Accepted 7 February 2010. Available online 10 May 2010.

Despite the lack of validated methods for differentiating feral from frightened socialized cats upon intake to animal welfare agencies, these organizations must make handling and disposition decisions for millions of cats each year based on their presumed socialization status. We conducted a nationwide survey of feline welfare stakeholders to learn about methods used to evaluate and categorize incoming cats, amount of time cats are held before assessment, disposition options available, and the level of cooperation among welfare agencies to minimize euthanasia of ferals. A wide variety of assessment methods were described and only 15% of 555 respondents had written guidelines. Holding periods of 1–3 days were common, and cats deemed feral were often euthanased. About half the shelters transferred ferals to trap–neuter–return (TNR) programs at least occasionally. Results highlight the need for validated assessment methods to facilitate judicious holding and disposition decisions for unowned cats at time of intake.

Article Outline

[Materials and methods](#)[Subject selection](#)

Related Articles

- Chapter 71 - Behavior of Single Cats and Groups in the ...
Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine
- Prevalence of infectious diseases in feral cats in Nort...
Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery
- Chapter 74 - Killing Cats and Killing Birds: Philosophi...
Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine
- Feral cats: their role in the population dynamics of Fe...
Applied Animal Behaviour Science

[View more related articles](#)

Related reference work articles e.g. encyclopedias

- Bovine and Feline Immunodeficiency Viruses
Encyclopedia of Virology

[More related reference work articles](#)

Connect with over 375,000
life-sciences researchers.

Register for free

BiomedExperts

Your scientific professional network

Survey design and administration	
Statistical analysis	
Results	View Record in Scopus
Objective 1: assessing incoming cats (questions 1, 2, 7, 8 and comments)	
Objective 2: holding times and dispositions (questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and comments)	
Objective 3: cooperation with other organizations (questions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and comments)	
Brick and mortar shelters (non-profit and animal control)	
All respondents	
Discussion	
Acknowledgements	
References	

 Corresponding author. Tel/Fax: +1-217-337-9769.

**Purchase**

Copyright © 2010 ISFM and AAFP. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

[Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery](#)
Volume 12, Issue 8, August 2010, Pages 592-600