

Return to Field Policies and Protocols

It is our goal to return feral and semi-feral cats to their original habitat whenever possible.

To be returned to field (RTF):

- The cat should be feral, semi-feral, or a friendly outdoor cat if she has a caretaker wanting her returned.
- The cat should be cleared of medical concerns, if any; spayed or neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and all veterinary needs met.
- The location of return is appropriate.
- The cat originally presented in good body weight and/or showed signs of thriving in original habitat.
- Contact with the caretaker, finder, or Good Samaritan should be attempted to let them know the cat is being returned and ask if there are any concerns. Most times, the caretaker will offer to pick the cat up from APA! And release once home, saving staff a trip to return the cat ourselves.
- The cat should be at least 4 months of age. Younger kittens should be sent to foster to attempt socialization.
- If the cat is geriatric or hospice, consider if hospice care in an APA! Outdoor Cat Habitat would be preferential.
- The window to return a cat to field is approximately three months from the date cat was removed from habitat.

Outcoming the Cat:

- Cats who are returned to field are not outcomed as adoptions. The correct procedure for outcoming a RTF cat is:
 - Transfer → Out → Feral/Wildlife
 - Find the correct cat listing
 - Release → SCRP → Complete
 - Enter in release address, name and contact information of caretaker, and any other pertinent details.
- Remember to include RTF cats in yearly Live Release Rate data and via the Adoption Tracker Spreadsheet.