



**Les Amis des Animaux des Refuges en France**

**LAARF is a group of animal lovers who network to make animals' lives in France better by volunteering in refuges and rescue organisations. Please join us:**

**Website [www.laarf.com](http://www.laarf.com)  
Facebook: LAARF SPA Volunteer Network  
Email: [info@laarf.com](mailto:info@laarf.com)**

## **Advice Sheet – found a cat or kittens?**

### **Found a cat?**

There are many feral cats living in France. Please note, if you begin to feed a feral cat/s, you are assuming responsibility for them. Cats will only reproduce if they have the nourishment to support their offspring, so by feeding them but not neutering them, you are only adding to the problem. If you feed a feral cat or cats, you are therefore morally obliged to take them to the vets to be neutered to avoid perpetuating the problem of overpopulation in France and the misery of these homeless cats. You are also obliged to find a solution for this cat/s if you move away. Contact LAARF further for advice. There are many schemes that will help you with the cost of neutering and people who will advise on trapping.

### **If you find a cat who you think is domestic but appears lost or abandoned:**

**Make a note of the date, time and location and take a photo** of the cat.

**If the cat is injured, physically distressed or sick, take he / she to the vet immediately. Otherwise, secure the cat** somewhere safe, away from people, animals and cars and provide water and food and a litter tray. **A worming or flea / tick treatment** may provide the cat with immediate relief. You can get these from your pharmacy.

**Check the cat for identification.** Look for a collar tag, check inside the collar and check the ear for a tattoo. **Failing this, take the cat to the vet or local pound** who will scan for a microchip. They do not usually charge for this. The vet or SPA may be able to trace the owner.

**Otherwise, spread the word around the neighbourhood.** Create a flyer and poster if you

can with a photo of the cat and your contact details. Tell your local postman or lady as they may well know whose it is. Tell the local baker, shops, restaurants and **report the found cat to the Mairie, the local SPAs and the gendarmes.**

**Place a photo and description of the cat, including location and time of finding, plus your contact details on:**

[Chat-perdu](#) and [Pet Alert France](#)

Search for their regionalised sections upon which to post your appeal and scan the lost cat sections too.

**Then, use the power of the internet** to spread the word about the cat. Take decent and clear photos, and provide as much information as possible.

Here are some that are local to some of the LAARF volunteers in south west France. **This list is not by any means complete so use your initiative and find your own.**

### Facebook Groups

Search for those near you! Here are some examples.

- [Pets Etc](#) - Poitou-Charentes
- [English Services Dordogne](#) – regional and also has Limousin and Charente sites.
- [Aquitaine Animals](#)
- [Paws France](#) - nationwide
- [Survive France](#) – find your sub-group according to where you are in France.
- [French Focus Friends](#) – nationwide
- [Angloinfo](#) – regionalised
- [Classified Ads France](#) - nationwide

### Other Online Groups:

**Please note, these are just examples! Use Google to find groups near you!**

- [Dronne Valley Network](#) (English speaking group along the Dronne River Valley, south west France) – please note, they also have a [Facebook page](#).

- **South West Charente Network** (English speaking group) Email [Lesley Mason](mailto:Lesley.Mason@swcn.org) to join.
- [French Entree](#) Go to the forum page. Join the forum and then choose your region.
- [Complete France forum](#) join the forum and then choose your region.
- [Hobos in France](#)
- [RootstockAds](#) – a free classified advertising site France-wide. Place a free classified in the Pets & Animals section.
- [Group 47](#) - is a forum for people in Lot et Garonne.
- [Eymet Guide](#) - for people in and around Eymet.
- [Guide2 The World](#) – scroll down this home page to find regionalized Guide 2 sites. Place your ads in the classified sections of the regionalized groups. For example, there are Guide 2 groups for Midi-Pyrenees, Rhone-Alpes and Paris and other groups under construction (Dordogne, Bordeaux, Biarritz, Toulouse).
- [Survive France Network](#) – join this group and then their sub groups regarding dogs and cats, and place your advert by creating a new comment.
- [English Informer in France](#) – please contact the editor via the Contact Us button at the bottom of the page. There is also a link to their Facebook page.

## What happens next?

Now you have a choice:

- 1) If all attempts to trace the owner fail, you can **telephone your nearest SPA, refuge or animal rescue Association to ask if they will take the cat in.**
- 2) **Keep the cat** – you must make all attempts to find the owner first and only after a couple of weeks are you able to microchip the cat in your name. If you are going to keep the cat, you must also have her / him micro-chipped, sterilised and vaccinated against disease.
- 3) **Re-home the cat** – this is a kinder option than taking the cat to the SPA where he / she will be confined and may be euthanised. It does require work on your part! Please contact LAARF (details above) and ask us for our pet re-homing guide.

Please note if the cat is micro-chipped and the owner can't be traced, you are in slightly muddy waters. Speak to your local SPA for advice. They may agree to take the cat in for the minimum quarantine period and to appeal to I-CAD to change the chip details to yours.

## **And now for the kittens:**

Sadly, France is inundated with stray cats and kittens and it is not at all uncommon to come across them.

If you encounter a mum and kittens, they may well be feral and it may be best to leave them alone as you may not even be able to get near them. If the kittens are tame and easily handled, then you could try and re-home them (see final sentence below). Once the kittens are grown, please do all you can to trap and neuter them and the mother. Contact LAARF (details above) for advice.

If the mum is nowhere to be seen and you suspect the kittens have been abandoned, please observe them for a few hours to be sure the mother doesn't return.

If the kittens are not yet weaned and if you are willing to take the kittens home to look after and become their temporary "mum" please take kitten feeding and health advice from Lynda on 05 53 81 30 44 or [lapuille@gmail.com](mailto:lapuille@gmail.com)

Otherwise, you will need to contact your nearest SPA or animal rescue organisation to see if they can help.

If all else fails, humane euthanasia at the vet's is far kinder than leaving the kittens to starve.

Once the kittens are 8 weeks old, you are able to re-home them. Contact LAARF (details above) for our pet re-homing guide.