

PRESS RELEASE

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Humane Society of Yuma Leadership Asks the Community's Help in Saving Cat's Lives

Kitten season is right around the corner!



Community cat- Photo credit Phil Clark

February 27, 2023 – YUMA, ARIZONA: Leaving cats where they are unless they are injured or in harm's way is the best way to be part of the lifesaving of cats in Yuma according to The Humane Society of Yuma. Less than 2% of cats coming into animal shelters are reclaimed by their owners according to national data provided by Best Friends Animal Society.

“People don’t want cats killed but they don’t realize that bringing them to us is not the best thing for the cat. We can help residents manage cat conflicts and we have resources to share that keep cats alive and addresses concerns and challenges” said Annette Lagunas, Humane Society of Yuma Executive Director.

Lagunas anticipates 250 to 350 cats and kittens entering the shelter monthly from March to June that will need immediate assistance. Bringing healthy cats to the shelter that are not injured or in harm's way puts them in competition with precious lifesaving resources and puts the cats directly at risk of losing their lives.

“Our goal is to save healthy and treatable pet’s lives. Ending cat's lives because we do not have space and resources is not something anyone wants to do. We are asking everyone in Yuma to be part of the lifesaving plan,” said Lagunas.

In 2022, the Humane Society of Yuma accepted 2,805 cats at the shelter and 548 were euthanized. Humane Society of Yuma leadership wants to decrease any unnecessary deaths in 2023 and is inviting the community to assist in creating a safer place for pets.

The Humane Society of Yuma has a variety of resources to manage cat communities. Deterrents are a great way to help manage cats. They range from granule repellants that you can purchase locally to motion censored sprinklers to scare the cat away. "Cats are very trainable and will begin to leave the area if it is not cat friendly," stated Rafael Garcia, the Community Cat Coordinator with the Humane Society of Yuma. "We see a lot of areas in the community that are appealing to cats. Cool green grass, flower beds and even open trash cans are all invitations for cats to come and stay a while." The shelter states that making your property less cat friendly will help keep their visits to a minimum. "Ensure that your trash can is always closed, try clear plastic forks sticking up in your garden to keep cats out of it or even a cat scat mat on the top of your fence to keep them from jumping your fence."

The Humane Society of Yuma also runs a Trap, Neuter and Release program (TNR) for cats. Due to limited veterinarians, it's a challenge to meet the increasing demand for sterilization but they continue to try to schedule TNR surgeries as much as possible. If you're interested in registering to be a part of the TNR program, go to www.hsoyuma.com. If you need assistance with deterring community cats around your house reach out to HSOY Community Cat Coordinator Rafa Garcia at 928-782-1621 ext. 105.

**DO NOT KIT-NAP MY KITTENS!
I'M COMING BACK!**

When we find a litter of kittens, our good-hearted instincts tell us to rush to the aid of these fragile felines. Thankfully, human intervention is typically not required.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FIND A KITTEN?

OBSERVE! DID MOM COME BACK?

<p>YES</p> <p>— —</p> <p>GREAT! DO NOT INTERVENE.</p> <p>Mother cats often leave for hours at a time to search for food or new shelter. She may also be scared by your presence. Keeping kittens with their mother is the best chance at survival.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>— —</p> <p>OH NO! HAS SHE BEEN GONE FOR MORE THAN 24HRS?</p> <p>Stay 35 ft. or more away if kittens are not in immediate danger. Mother cat may not return if she senses your presence. If Mom hasn't returned in 24 hours, take action.</p>
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About the Humane Society of Yuma

The Humane Society of Yuma, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to reduce the number of homeless pets through rescue, adoption and spay/neuter programs. On average, the Humane Society of Yuma intakes 6,600 animals and operates as an open admissions shelter. All funding and operational income is utilized locally on Yuma's homeless animal population. The Humane Society of Yuma is not funded or affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States or any other national animal welfare organizations. It is the only shelter within a 200-mile radius.

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