

What To Do When You Find A Stray Animal

Whether a pet has been lost for one day or three weeks makes no difference—you can't assume a stray animal is yours to keep!

If you see a stray animal call your local police department non-emergency number or animal control and describe the animal and its location for them to come and rescue it.

If you see a stray animal and take it in and secure it yourself, consider keeping it separate from your own pets for safety and health reasons. Then report a found pet by following these steps:

- 1 Check For Ownership!**
- If the pet is collarless, don't automatically assume it is ownerless. Look in its ears for tattoos.
 - Take it to a veterinary office, animal shelter or humane society to be scanned for a microchip.

- 2 Ask Around!**
- Talk with your neighbors, local residents, and businesses. They may recognize the animal.

- 3 Make The Call!**
- Call animal control or your local police department non-emergency number.
 - Call humane societies or shelters within a 25 mile radius because pets roam and can get picked up.
 - Call veterinary offices.

- 4 Flyers Are Important!**
- Watch for posted flyers.
 - Create found flyers and ask to post them at veterinary offices, high traffic retail areas, mall bulletin boards, animal shelters. Include a basic written description of the stray animal and your phone numbers. Do not mention specific details—this prevents people from pretending the pet is theirs.

- 5 Newspaper Ads!**
- Check lost ads in your local papers.
 - Place a found ad in your local papers.

- 6 Be Informed—Be Persistent!**
- Be aware of your local animal ordinances. You may be required to make a concerted effort to locate the owner of a stray animal for many days.
 - Be persistent before you decide to keep it for your own. Work with your local humane society's Lost and Found Department.
 - Give your local humane society advanced notice if you decide to surrender the animal to them.

