

# I found a lost pet. What next?



## **Approach with Caution**

Approach the pet slowly and calmly. Some lost pets might be scared or nervous, so avoid sudden movements or loud noises that could startle them.

## **Check for Identification**

If the pet is wearing a collar, check for identification tags with the owner's contact information. This is often the quickest way to get in touch with the pet's owner.

## **Containment and Safety**

If the pet is willing, and if you're able to do so safely, put a leash on a dog or place a cat in a carrier. This will help prevent the pet from running away again and keep it safe. If you're unable to contain the animal safely, call the Animal Control office immediately and try to keep eyes on the animal from a safe distance.

## **Take Photos**

Take clear photos of the found pet. These photos can be used for creating flyers, online postings, and sharing on social media to help locate the owner.

## **Notify Local Authorities and Helping Strays**

If found in Monroe County, contact Monroe County Animal Control and Helping Strays with a description of the animal. Both parties often receive calls when families lose a pet so they may be able to assist in reunifying the pet with their owners. Helping Strays and many local vet offices can also scan the lost pet for a microchip.

## **Stay Available**

Keep your phone on and stay available to answer calls from potential owners. Be cautious when sharing specific details about the pet's appearance; ask the caller to provide identifying information to confirm ownership.

## **Consider Temporary Care**

If you're unable to locate the owner quickly, you may consider providing temporary care for the pet. This could involve keeping it safe, well-fed, and comfortable until the owner is found or a suitable solution is determined.

## **Stray Hold**

If you are unable to locate the owner or provide temporary care, you should contact Monroe County Animal Control where animals go on a 7-day stray hold for owners to reclaim them.

## **A Second Chance!**

If animals are not reclaimed during their stray hold, they are transported to Helping Strays to find a new forever home!