

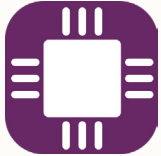
arf Found Pet Checklist

If you find a stray animal, remember: always think lost! It is easy to assume that found animals are abandoned or homeless, but they likely have owners who are looking for them. A lost pet is depending on you to help them find their way home.



Check for identification

A name/identification tag can lead you directly to the owner. Rabies tags and shelter tags also have traceable numbers.



Scan for a microchip

Take the pet to a veterinarian or shelter to scan for an implanted microchip (this is FREE service).



Contact animal control

Immediately contact the animal control agency in the area you found the pet and provide a detailed physical description along with the location and date that you found the animal.



Post on social media

Utilize social media sites like Facebook, NextDoor, and Craigslist to post a Found Pet ad and check for missing pets that might be a match. Post on local pages like Fido Alert to connect with other pet owners in your area. You can also post a found animal on PetHarbor, a website commonly used by animal shelters.



Create “Found Pet” posters and flyers

Post large neon posters in the area you found the pet, and distribute flyers to your neighbors and throughout the community (vet offices, groomers and pet stores, dog parks, local bulletin boards, etc.).



Do not rehome

If you cannot care for the pet, you can drop them off at the shelter where they will be held as a stray before becoming available for adoption. If you would like to foster the animal you found, you are required by law to make a concerted effort for 30 days to find the owners before keeping, re-homing, or neutering them.

For more information, contact ARF's Resource Center.

(925) 256-1273 • (800) 567-1273

www.arflife.org/resource-and-referral-center