Found Pets and Stray Animals

If you found a stray animal, here are a few steps you can take to help get the animal returned to its owner:

1. If you can safely do so, check to see if the animal is wearing a collar with a license or identification tag. Owners will often put contact information on a tag, or on the animal's collar. If the animal is wearing a license, you can contact the license issuer for owner contact information.

2. Have the animal scanned for a microchip. A microchip is a permanent form of identification that can be read by an electronic scanner. Any animal shelter or veterinarian's office can scan the animal and help contact the registered owner.

3. Contact the animal control agency responsible for lost pets in your community (see our handout "Animal Control Services") to see if they have a report of a Lost Pet matching the animal you've found.

4. If the animal is not aggressive and you're able to keep it in your home while attempting to locate its owner, file a Found Pet Report with the animal control agency and other area animal shelters. You will be asked to provide information about where the animal was found, along with your contact information. You can also post flyers in the area where the dog was found and post a "found animal" ad on Craigslist.

5. If you are unable to keep the animal in your home, take it to the animal control agency responsible for lost pets in your community (see our handout "Animal Control Services").

6. Safety first. Do not attempt to approach an aggressive or scared animal. If you cannot safely contain the animal, call your local Animal Control Agency or Police Department. After hours, you can call 911, ask for a non-emergency responder for a stray animal issue, and have them connect you with an animal control agency.

Stray Animal Services for Woodinville and Surrounding Communities

Homeward Pet Adoption Center is a privately-funded animal rescue and adoption organization, and cannot take in lost or stray animals. PAWS is contracted to accept and shelter stray animals from the cities of Woodinville, as well as Edmonds, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Shoreline. You can file a found pet report on their website at paws.org. PAWS accepts stray animals any day between 9am – 5pm. They will need the details on where you found the cat or dog, along with your contact information. If PAWS is closed when you arrive, ring the doorbell for assistance as shelter staff may be available to assist you. If no one is available, please keep the animal and return during open hours, or contact animal control at Regional Animal Services of King County, 206-296-7387.