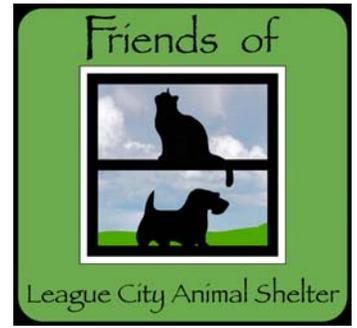


What to do when you've found a stray



1. Check for a tag or microchip.

If you've found a stray, do the obvious first – check for a tag! If there is a tag, and the owner's name is on it, call and arrange for a pickup, and know you have done your good deed for the day. If the tag gives the name of a veterinarian's clinic, call them and get the name and phone number of the owner using the code number on the tag. Then follow up to return the dog or cat.

2. Notify your local shelter that you have found a stray animal.

There are different laws in each city regarding stray animals. In some communities, finders of lost animals are legally required to either surrender the animal to the animal shelter or to report to the shelter that they have a stray animal. Check with your local animal control or animal services department in your city to find out what your legal obligations are.

Even if you're not legally required to notify the shelter, you'll still want to let them know that you have a stray. If the owners of the animal are looking for their pet, they will most likely start by calling the shelter, so it's very important that the shelter knows that you have found the pet.

If you must take the animal to the shelter, and you wish to do everything you can for the animal, be sure to claim last rights. Claiming last rights gives you adoption privileges if the animal is not claimed within a given time period and is due to be put down. It is a good idea to call the shelter daily to let the staff know that you are interested in the animal's welfare.



3. Make every effort to find the owner.

Besides notifying your local shelter, you'll want to check lost-and-found ads in the local newspapers. Try placing an ad in the lost-and-found section yourself. Another good strategy is to post flyers in the vicinity where the animal was found.

A typical ad describes the type of animal, the location where he/she was found, and the coloring and other distinct characteristics of the animal. You want to leave out some crucial characteristic, though, so that when someone calls claiming to be the owner, you can verify that the animal really belongs to him/her. This helps guard against turning strays over to bunchers.

4. Be wary of dishonest callers.

When someone answers your ad, make sure the person gives you a detailed description of the animal. To ensure that you have found the animal's real owner, here are a few additional tips:

- Ask the caller to bring a photo of the animal to the meeting place.
- Ask for their veterinarian's phone number, and make a follow-up call.
- Watch how the animal reacts to the caller in person. If you are not satisfied, ask for more proof of ownership.
- Ask them to bring their photo ID.

Free isn't always free

Most people have good intentions when they advertise a cat or dog as “Free To Good Home”. They care what happens to the animal and are not interested in making money. All they want to do is find a nice family that is willing to give the pet a loving, responsible home. But the tragedy occurs when the animal is mistakenly put into a situation where it is neglected, abandoned, abused, or even sold for lab experimentation. Sadly, this sort of thing happens thousands of times each day across America.

Giving any pet away is misguided. People tend not to value what they don't pay for. If you charge a nominal fee of \$35-\$45 *or more* for an animal, the new owner is more likely to take their commitment to the pet seriously. **A free pet shouldn't be a disposable pet!**



Paying a fee for a pet shows **good faith** on the part of the new owner and demonstrates their willingness to properly care for the animal. The truth is, there is no such thing as a “free” pet anyway. By the time a cat or dog is checked out by a vet, including shots, worming, health testing, and spay/neuter, a “free” pet will easily cost in excess of \$100, and that's just for starters. A responsible person who would properly take care of an animal will understand this and will not be opposed to paying a reasonable fee for a healthy pet, especially if some or all of these health items have already been taken care of.

Still not convinced? Then ask yourself these questions, “If a person cannot afford to pay an adoption fee for a pet, how will they be able to afford the normal expenses of proper pet care? And how will they ever afford vet bills when the pet gets sick?”

If you are uncomfortable with asking a fee for the pet, consider including food, toys, supplies, etc. as an added incentive. The idea is not to make a profit, but to ensure the good intentions of the new owner. In any event, the animal should be “fixed” and have its “shots” before it is adopted out and these costs alone can easily equal \$45 or more. Use the adoption fee to recoup your expenses.

One final thought on this subject – if you absolutely don't want to take any money yourself, ask the adopter to make the check out to a local animal shelter or SPCA instead. These organizations can surely use the help!

Source: <http://www.petrescue.com/petlibrary/pet-rescue/the-tragedy-of-free/>

Adoption Agreements

<http://www.petrescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/adoptionform1.pdf>

Screening Forms for an Adopter

Screenings Forms for Cats

<http://www.petrescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/cat-phone-screen.pdf>

Screenings Forms for Dogs

<http://www.petrescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/dog-phone-screen.pdf>

League City Animal Shelter

821 N. Kansas Street

League City, TX 77573

Office: (281) 554-1377

www.leaguecityanimalshelter.com

Friends of League City Animal Shelter

For information about volunteering contact

Monica Millican at (281) 333-1020, or

mmillican@primelending.com.

www.friendsofleaguecityanimalshelter.org

What to do with baby kittens

What to do if you find kittens

If you find young kittens without their mom, it does not automatically mean they have been abandoned by their mother. The mother could be out looking for food, or finding a more suitable home for her kittens. If you find one or two kittens, their mother may be in the process of moving the family and is on her way back for the others. Wait and observe from a distance for an hour or two. **Kittens have the best chance of survival with their mother.** Ultimately, you have to use your own judgment, depending upon the kittens' needs and your time and resources.

Please keep in mind that if you bring the cats inside you should keep them separate from your animals until evaluated by a veterinarian. Also, for proper social development, kittens should be kept with their litter (and mother, if possible) until at least 8 weeks of age.

Kittens without a mother

If the kittens aren't weaned, and you take them in without a mother, they will require round-the-clock care and routine bottle feeding. Just Google "how to care for unweaned kittens" and you will find a multitude of great resources to help you feed the kittens. Many people have made how to videos and shared them on YouTube as well. Young kittens without their mother need to be kept warm and should not be bathed. If you or a friend cannot do this, you can try posting an ad on Craigslist to find a foster.

Kittens with a friendly mother

If the mother does return, and she is friendly, the best approach is to take her and the kittens indoors until the kittens are old enough to be weaned and adopted. Momma should then be spayed and either placed in an adoptive home or returned to her territory.

Kittens with a feral mother

If the mother is feral, the family should stay outdoors with shelter, food and water provided. When the kittens are weaned, they should move indoors for socialization and then be adopted out into forever homes. Momma should be trapped, spayed and returned.

Kittens are old enough to be weaned around 5 weeks – when they really start to run around. For proper social development, feral kittens should be removed from their mother around 5 weeks of age, and brought indoors. Kittens from tame moms do not need to be moved from mom at 5 weeks.

Tips for judging a kitten's age

- Under 1 week: Eyes shut, ears flat to head, skin looks pinkish. Part of umbilical cord may be attached.
- 1 week-10 days: Eyes beginning to open, ears still flat. A kitten this age is smaller than your hand.
- 3 weeks: Eyes are fully open, ears are erect, teeth are visible. Kittens this age are just starting to walk and will be very wobbly.
- 4-5 weeks: Eyes have changed from blue to another color and/or kittens have begun to pounce and leap. Kittens this age will begin to eat gruel or canned food.

Adoptions

When kittens are at least 8 weeks old and have been fully socialized, they are ready to be adopted out.

Source: <http://www.austinpetsalive.org/get-pet-help/found-kittens/>

Stray animal shelter resources

Every day, we at Friends of League City Animal Shelter are asked by the community on where people can take found animals/their own unwanted pets/strays. Many times, people become stressed with having to care for animal they either no longer want or can't afford to keep, whether it be a stray or unwanted pet. Most people prefer to give these animals to a shelter instead of trying to adopt them out themselves. So, below is a list of resources you can use to find a shelter or private pet organization that will take any pet and increase its chance of finding a loving, long-term home.

Bay Area Pet Adoptions

<http://www.bayareapetadoptions.org/adoptpage.html>

Bay Area Pet Adoptions will take in any adoptable surrendered animal providing space is available. When the shelter is at full capacity, the animal is placed on the waiting list and the owner will be contacted and given an appointment for a pet health examination and adoptability assessment. Once the animal has been wait listed, the owner is requested to keep all shots and vaccinations current and have the animal spayed/neutered if not already done. This action will assist the shelter in taking the animal as quickly as possible. Wait list animals have first priority for available shelter space.

Visit their website to download the appropriate admission forms.

Citizens for Animal Protection

<http://www.cap4pets.org/pet-adoptions/weekend-sponsor>

CAP's adoption rate is three times the national average and among the highest in the state, according to their website. CAP accepts animals daily from 10am to 4 pm. Due to the limited number of large cages, CAP is only able to accept a small number of large breed dogs over 17" tall at the shoulder and over 45lbs in weight. Before bringing in a large breed dog, call to see if they have a large cage available. CAP must also limit the number of adult animals that they can accept at any given time. CAP will accept two (2) adult animals per week from a household. To surrender a pet you must provide a small fee.

Houston SPCA

http://www.houstonspca.org/site/PageNavigator/animal_resources_admissions

Houston SPCA is a wonderful organization because "No animal is ever euthanized at the Houston SPCA to make room for incoming animals." They stand by their commitment to never euthinize an animal because they have lived at the shelter for an extended period of time or to make room for newer animals. As long as the animal is healthy and has no behavioral issues, then they are welcome to stay at the Houston SPCA for as long as necessary.

They estimate it costs them \$300-\$500, excluding staff time to place a pet in a new home. The average adult cat or dog stays with them 14-19 days, while the average kitten or puppy stays with them 4-7 days. To take in a found pet they require the following:

1. a 15-minute counseling session;
2. a small admission fee that varies by an animal's size (kittens must be at least 9 weeks old or 2 pounds)
3. animals are accepted by appointment only-7 days a week, 9 hours a day
4. you must have confined and cared for the animal for at least two weeks before you can relinquish it.

For additional information on this subject or about FLCAS, visit www.FriendsOfLeagueCityAnimalShelter.org and click on the FAQs button.