



What to do if you find a stray

What to Do if You Find a Stray Cat or Dog

If you find an animal, get involved. We all hope that a wandering dog will find its way home, but leaving a lost and disoriented animal to fend for himself is risky. Dogs, cats, and other companion animals rely on people for care and protection, especially when separated from their owners.

If you find a stray dog running loose in your neighborhood, contact your local animal control officer. You can obtain the phone number from the APF or your police department **non-emergency number**. After contacting the APF and animal control, you may choose to keep the dog in your home until an owner is found, or you may have animal control pick the dog up from you.

A stray or unidentified cat may be brought to the shelter. But keep in mind that a cat that seems healthy and well fed may belong to someone. Post FOUND CAT flyers around your neighborhood or place an ad in the paper; these are often free. Some cat owners do not search diligently for lost cats. They assume that their cat will come back eventually. Nationwide, many cats with homes are brought to shelters and either readopted or euthanized because of lack of identification and carelessness by owners. After contacting the APF, you may choose to keep the cat until an owner is found, or you may bring the cat to the shelter.

A cat that that seems unhealthy, injured, thin or skittish may truly be stray or abandoned. These cats, as well as stray litters, should be brought to the shelter. Bringing the animal to a shelter may mean a chance for a great new life, or at the very least, a humane death and the prevention of more suffering.