WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A LOST PET

Immediate Actions

1. Ensure Safety: Approach the pet slowly and calmly. Use a calm voice and avoid sudden movements. If the pet seems aggressive, do not attempt to catch it. Instead, call local animal control.

IS THE PET INJURED, VISIBLY SICK, SEVERELY UNDERWEIGHT, OR A NEWBORN? If yes, you can take them to BARC located at 2700 Evella Street from 9am to 5pm. Please note, no appointment is necessary for sick/injured animals but wait times for unscheduled animals being turned in may take up to 3 hours, so we recommend arriving no later than 2pm.

2. Check for Identification: Look for tags or a collar. If there's a phone number or address on the tag, contact the owner immediately. If there's no visible ID, take the pet to a vet, shelter, or pet store to be scanned for a microchip for free. Many places offer this including RPM!

3. Take Clear Photos: Capture clear and detailed photos of the pet from different angles. This will help in creating posters and online posts.

Search the Neighborhood

4. Talk to Neighbors: Ask around to see if anyone recognizes the pet or knows the owner. Sometimes pets don't wander far from home.

Create and Share Flyers (crucial!)

5. Create Flyers: Include a clear photo, information about the pet, and your contact information. Rescued Pets Movement has designed a free, editable template for public use on Canva.com or on the Canva cell phone app; you can access the free template using this QR code:

6. Print and Post Flyers in the Area: While printing and hanging flyers might seem old school, many citizens do not have access to the internet and there are so many different sites and groups to post lost and found pets. We strongly recommend posting physical, printed flyers if at all possible. Laminating or inserting flyers in sheet protectors can help them withstand weather damage. Place the flyers in high-traffic areas such as:

- Busy intersections
- Community bulletin boards
- Local parks
- Grocery stores
- Pet stores
- Veterinary offices
- Rescue centers

DID YOU KNOW?

Abandoning an animal is a felony under Texas Penal Code - PENAL § 42.092- cruelty to Non Livestock Animals

7. Check with Local Shelters and Vets: Notify local shelters and veterinary clinics. Provide them with the pet's description and your contact information, or email a PDF of a "found pet" flyer. Please see page 5 for a list of local, public shelters, many of which have a place to report found pets on their websites.

Online Posting (crucial!)

8. Post on Lost and Found Websites:

- Petco Love Lost: lost.petcolove.org (Petco Love Lost uses facial recognition software and cutting edge technology to reunite pets and their people. If you only post on one website, make sure it is Petco Love Lost, which also integrates into several other platforms and websites automatically.)
- PawBoost: pawboost.com
- Nextdoor: nextdoor.com
- Ring Neighbors: neighbors.ring.com (you can create an account and post even without a Ring device)
- Lost My Doggie: lostmydoggie.com

Petco Love Lost | Pawboost | Nextdoor | Ring Neighbors | Lost My Doggie

9. Social Media and Online Communities: Be sure to utilize social media to spread the word! We strongly recommend creating a public post on your personal Facebook page, then sharing this post across various Facebook groups. Having one original post makes it easy to update in a single place if the animal is reunited rather than having to backtrack and update each individual post. There are hundreds of lost and found groups, and sharing in as many as possible helps increase the likelihood the pet's owner will see the post. Here are a few of the most popular:

- Lost and Found Pets: Houston & Surrounding Areas
- HOUSTON LOST & FOUND PETS
- Houston Lost/Found Dogs, Pets
- Texas – Lost Dogs, Cats & Pets – PawBoost Community
- Lost N' Found Pets of Houston and Surrounding Areas
- Rescue/Foster/Network Animals of Houston TX
- Lost&Found, Rescue/Foster/Rehoming pets across All Areas of Houston
- Houston Save-a-Pet and Pet Support
- PETS OF OAK FOREST - Dogs and Cats - HOUSTON (local to the area around RPM. Only pets found in the Oak Forest area can be shared here.)

Lost and Found Pets: Houston & Surrounding Areas | HOUSTON LOST & FOUND PETS | Houston Lost/Found Dogs, Pets | Texas – Lost Dogs, Cats & Pets – PawBoost Community | Lost N' Found Pets of Houston and Surrounding Areas

Rescue/Foster/Network Animals of Houston TX | Lost&Found, Rescue/ Foster/Rehoming pets across All Areas of Houston | Houston Save-a-Pet and Pet Support | PETS OF OAK FOREST - Dogs and Cats - HOUSTON

10. Local Community Forums: Post on local forums and community pages. There are often dedicated Facebook groups for certain areas as well as local websites such as Craigslist.

Follow-Up Actions

11. Check Posts and Responses Regularly: Keep an eye on any responses to your posts and check your voicemail and email frequently.

12. Keep the Pet Safe and Comfortable: Until the owner is found, keep the pet in a safe and comfortable environment. Ensure they have food, water, and shelter. We recommend the use of a crate. If you do not have one, many people in the local facebpook grouos listed about will lone crates out to folks who find pets and are attempting to find the owners. Reach out to local communities for help if you need it!

Reuniting the Pet with the Owner

13. Verify Ownership: When someone claims the pet, ask for proof of ownership. This can be photos, vet records, or the pet's familiarity with the person. Please be aware, there are scams across the internet where a scammer will pretend to be the pet's owner and "attempt to verify you are real" by sending a code to your phone. This is a scam. Do not send verification codes or login information to anyone claiming to be a pet's owner. Also meet in public places and bring a friend or family member with you if possible.

14. Consider Temporary Fostering: If you cannot find the owner immediately, consider fostering the pet or find a temporary foster home. Private nonprofit rescue groups in the Houston area generally do not have facilities with open space to take in animals from the public. By opening your home until the owner or a new forever home is found, YOU can bridge the gap for that pet to keep them safe. If you are able to foster for a rescue, contact any of the hundreds of local rescue groups in the Houston area. Page 4 of this handout contains just a few. Be sure to provide all important information such as age, any heath issues, behaviors, size, weight, possible breed, etc.

Last Resort Options

15. Surrender to a Shelter or Rescue if You Are Unable to Foster and the Owners Have Not Been Found After an Extended Period of Time: While there are public shelters, securing an appointment to turn in an animal can be tricky. At the time this flyer was made (June 2024) BARC, the city of Houston shelter, is currently opening intake to animals each Sunday from 1-4pm without an appointment. However, they stop taking in pets once all kennels at the shelter are full, so we recommend arriving as early as possible before the open intake start time begins. Lines begin forming early in the day. For more information on open intake on Sundays or to make an appointment to turn in a pet, please call 311 or visit the city's website:

Please note, surrendering a pet to the pound should be a last resort option. Local shelters are always over max capacity which forces staff to make difficult decisions regarding space and often results in perfectly adoptable pets being euthanized. Unfortunately, the city and county government does not allocate nearly enough funds to shelters to allow them to properly house and care for all the pets in need across our city. We implore citizens to contact local city and county officials advocating for proper funding for our public shelters and to open intake for pets in need.

Lastly, please note that to turn in a pet into a government shelter, your home address AND the location the pet was found must be in the jurisdiction that shelter covers. The two main shelters in this area are BARC and Harris County Pets. Page 5 of this handout includes a comprehensive list of local, taxpayer-funded public animal shelters. We recommend contacting the shelter ahead of time to verify your jurisdiction before attempting to turn in a pet.

HOUSTON-AREA ANIMAL ORGANIZATIONS

Remember, private nonprofit rescue groups in the Houston area generally do not have facilities with open space to take in animals from the public. By opening your home until the owner or a new forever home is found, YOU can bridge the gap for that pet to keep them safe. If you are able to foster for a rescue, contact any of the hundreds of local rescue groups in the Houston area. Be sure to provide all important information such as age, any heath issues, behaviors, size, weight, possible breed, etc. Most organizations provide all vet care and supplies free of charge to fosters!

Please note, while we have done our best to compile a list of several local rescues, we cannot guarantee that any of these organizations are able to take in pets at any given time. There are many more groups not listed here that can be found on Google and Facebook. All reputable rescues in Houston are overwhelmed with pets in need and are severely underfunded. Please be kind and patient when contacting rescue groups and shelters. Animal lovers just like you are answering that call or email, and the amount of pets in need right now is truly overwhelming. We appreciate your kindness and empathy.

1. Houston Pets Alive
houstonpetsalive.org

2. CAMO Rescue
Specializes in: small breed dogs and small breed medical cases
camorescue.com

3. Animal Justice League
animaljusticeleague.org

4. Friends For Life Animal Shelter
friends4life.org

5. Pup Squad Animal Rescue
Specializes in: Rescuing orphaned puppies, kittens, and nursing litters
pupsquad.org

6. K-9 Angels Rescue
k-9angelsrescue.org

7. Adopt A Rescued Friend (AARF)
aarfhouston.org

8. Houston Boxer Rescue
Specializes in: Boxer breed only
houstonboxerrescue.org

9. Golden Beginnings Golden Retriever Rescue
Specializes in: Golden Retriever breed only
gbgrr.org

10. Basset Buddies Rescue of Texas
Specializes in: Basset Hound breed only
bassetbuddiesrescue.org

11. Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP)
cap4pets.org

12. Scout's Honor Rescue
scoutshonor.org

13. Houston SPCA
houstonspca.org

14. Mutts & Meows Rescue
muttsandmeows.org

15. All Texas Dachshund Rescue
Specializes in: Dachshund breed
atdr.org

16. Homeless Pet Placement League
Specializes in: Foster care and adoption
hppl.org

17. Honoring Hope & Faith Rescue
hhfrescue.org

18. Three Little Pitties All Breed Rescue
threelittlepittiesrescue.org

You may notice that Rescued Pets Movement is not included on this list. Sadly, at this time, we are unable to accept any pets directly from the public. We are currently only able to save animals from BARC, the city of Houston shelter.

Directly Rehome a Pet

There are several website which can help you find a new home for a pet directly without utilizing a rescue organization. Here are some of the most popular sites:

1. Rehome: by Adopt a Pet
   - rehome.adoptapet.com

2. Home To Home
   - home-home.org

3. Rehome Your Pets
   - rehomeyourpets.com

DID YOU KNOW?
Dumping an animal is a felony under Texas law

HOUSTON-AREA PUBLIC SHELTERS

Please consider surrendering a pet to a public shelter as a last resort. Local shelters are frequently overwhelmed, leading to tough decisions about space and the euthanasia of otherwise adoptable animals. Insufficient funding from city and county budgets exacerbates this issue, limiting the shelters' ability to care for all the animals in need. We encourage citizens to contact their local officials to advocate for better funding and support for public shelters, ensuring they can become open intake facilities for lost, abandoned, pets and those in need of a new home.

Additionally, most, if not all the shelters listed here are not “open intake” meaning they do not accept pets without an appointment. Unfortunately, due to how frequently this information changes, we are unable to provide intake information for each individual shelter listed. Please reach out to shelters directly to identify their intake process. Please be aware that when surrendering a pet to a shelter, both your home address and the location where the pet was found must fall within the shelter's jurisdiction. We recommend contacting the shelter in advance to confirm your jurisdiction before bringing in a pet.

BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions (City of Houston)
2700 Evella St. Houston, TX 77026
713-837-0311
houstontx.gov/barc/

Baytown Animal Control
705 N Robert C Lanier Dr. Baytown, TX 77520
281-422-7600
baytown.org/1160/Animal-Services
animalcontrol@baytown.org

Bellaire Animal Shelter
5110 Jessamine St. Bellaire, TX 77401
713-668-0487
bellairetx.gov/1039/In-Our-Pound

Bunker Hill
713-464-9762
bunkerhilltx.gov/citizens/animal-services

Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center
4213 Luell Avenue Deer Park, TX 77536
281-478-7274
deerparktx.gov/490/Animal-Control
animalshelter@deerparktx.org

Fort Bend County Animal Control
1210 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-342-1512
fortbendcountytx.gov > “Animal Services”

Harris County Pets
612 Canino Rd. Houston, TX 77076
281-999-3191
countypets.com

Humble Animal Control
240 Dennis St. Humble, TX 77338
281-446-2327
cityofhumbletx.gov/animal-services/

Jacinto City Animal Control
713-453-7411
jacintocity-tx.gov/animal-control/
publicworks@jacintocity-tx.gov

La Porte City Animal Control
10901 Spencer Highway La Porte, TX 77571
281-471-3811
laportetx.gov > “Animal Shelter & Animal Control”

League City Animal Care
821 North Kansas Av. League City, TX 77573
281-554-1377
leaguecitytx.gov > “Departments” > “Animal Care

Missouri City Animal Control
1919 Scanlin Rd. Missouri City, TX 77489
281-403-8707
missouricitytx.gov/92/Animal-Services
animalservices@missouricitytx.gov

Montgomery County Animal Shelter
8535 State Hwy 242 Conroe, TX 77385
936-442-7738
mcaspets.org

Pearland Animal Control
8311 Freedom Dr. Pearland, TX 77584
281-652-1970
pearlandtx.gov > “Departments” > “Animal Services”

Rosenberg Animal Control
1207 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-595-3490
rosenbergtx.gov > “Community” > “Animal Control”

Seabrook Animal Shelter
1100 Red Bluff Rd. Seabrook, TX 77586
281-291-5644
seabrooktx.gov > “Department” > “Police Department” > “Animal Control”

Sugarland Animal Control
101B Gillingham Ln. Sugarland, TX 77498
281-275-2364
sugarlandtx.gov/220/Animal-Services

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This handout is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute veterinary, legal, medical, behavioral, or other professional advice. Individuals are solely responsible for evaluating their circumstances and taking appropriate action. Rescued Pets Movement (RPM) assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss, damage, claim, or outcome resulting from the use of information contained in this handout or any referenced resources.