

Good Samaritan “Finder–Helper” Checklist

How to help a “lost” pup or purr find his way home.

Identification and Immediate Contacts

- **Visit a local vet** and ask them to scan for a micro-chip. (If they had a collar with a phone number that worked, you wouldn’t need this form!)
- **Call your local newspaper and ask to place a “Found Pet” Ad** in their classifieds. This is a free service. Your ad should have enough information to alert their guardian but not enough to allow false identifications. For example, I usually leave out the gender and the weight or any super visible identifier like “one white paw” or “a brown spot above the right eye.”
- **Call your local vets and pass the “Found Pet” Ad information to them.** You might also email a head shot. You could get lucky--he or she may be a client!
- **Post information around your neighborhood, community bulletin board, convenience stores, dry cleaners, etc.** Scared dogs and cats can run for miles and miles. Their noses only bring them home in movies like “The Incredible Journey.”
- **On-line services to post information:**
 - HomeAgain.com
 - FoundAnimals.org
 - Craigslist.org

Been there, done that. Now what?

If you’ve found a deliberately abandoned pup or purr, you have four options.

- **Connect with a local rescue.** Breed-specific rescues as well as “all breed” rescue organizations are great resources providing on-line and in-person promotion capability, reduced vet expenses, and other necessities. They may have an available foster home or be willing to add you as a foster. **Fastest way** to connect is in-person at an adoption event with your buddy by your side or in a crate! You can find a rescue at RescueMe.org or PetFinder.com. **Pssst. Share photos!** You will need a great head shot plus photos of happy interactions with other fur-friends and peeps. Wal-Mart sells super cute bandannas for \$1, easy way to boost appeal. A sweet photo could be all you need to attract “the one” for them.
- **Promote for adoption yourself via on-line “Social Media.” CAUTION:** Do NOT promote as “FREE to good home.” Dog fighting rings seek out FREE dogs and will turn your good intention into a death sentence. Always attach a value of at least \$100.00 and get references (a vet reference plus 2 personal references is recommended).
- **Adopt him or her** (or proceed as such in the absence of that loving guardian). I once adopted a “lost” dog who belonged to a neighbor. I had him for ten days before finding out from another neighbor that he lived four houses down from me! His folks had NO interest in him – no “Lost Dog” signs up – nothing. They were delighted when we offered to love him forever.
- **Call Animal Control** or turn your friend into the local shelter yourself. Please avoid “HIGH-Kill” shelters; opt for a “No-Kill” Shelter.

Not Optional – Safety First – Essential Vaccinations

- **Talk to your vet.** Most offer discounts, at least 25%, for “rescues.” Also search on the internet for a “spay/neuter clinic.” Most offer vaccinations, etc., at greatly discounted pricing.