

I FOUND A STRAY! WHAT DO I DO?

I am using a dog as an example but this same theory could work for any pet found.

First, consider the safety of the dog and of yourself. *A frightened and possibly sick or injured dog may behave unpredictably. A sudden move may spook him, causing him to bolt into traffic or even attack you. If the dog looks or acts threatening in any way, or if for any reason you feel uneasy about the situation, stay away from him or her and notify local animal control authorities.*

If the dog appears approachable, remember to use caution and common sense.

If you are lucky enough to get close enough to capture him or her, you still stand the risk of being bitten. Even a small dog can inflict a painful wound, and if a dog whose vaccination status is unknown bites you, you will be advised to undergo expensive and painful preventative treatment for rabies. When approaching the dog, speak calmly and reassuringly to him. Make sure he can see you at all times as you approach, and perhaps entice him to come to you by offering a morsel of food. Once you've managed to approach and capture the dog, the best care you can give it is to attempt to return it to its owner.

Next Steps

1. Assume, no matter how the dog behaves or what it looks like, that this dog is owned and loved by someone who wants the dog back.
2. By law, you are required to turn found dogs over to local authorities (animal shelter, pound) where their owner/guardian will be able to claim them.
3. Check the dog for ID tags or tattoos. Tattoos are often found inside the ear or on the inner legs.
4. Check the area for any "LOST DOG" posters, but understand that the dog might have traveled quite far and the posters could be one mile away or more. Also consider that the dog may have escaped in the last few hours and the posters haven't gone up yet. Maybe the dog's owner is disabled and unable to create and hang posters. Just because there is no poster, don't automatically assume that there is no owner!
5. Take the dog to a vet's office and have it scanned for a microchip.
6. Check the "lost & found" ads in the local paper, and place a "found dog" ad yourself. (Craigslist Remember to check the "lost" ads periodically, as well as local lost pet websites (FB Lost Dogs-MN). Even if the description given doesn't perfectly fit the dog you've found, call anyway. You'd be surprised how many pet owners, shelter workers, and individuals who find lost pets and place "found" dog ads get the breed wrong!
7. Post a giant FOUND DOG poster near the exact spot where you found the dog and a couple more at major intersections in that area. Use florescent posters that are 28" X 22" (do not use water soluble markers), write five or six words that convey your message, then put your phone number in smaller writing at the bottom. For example, if you find a white teacup Poodle, you could write: "FOUND TINY WHITE FLUFFY DOG" and your phone number. That's it. Don't be too descriptive. If someone calls to claim the dog you found make HIM OR HER tell YOU what their missing dog looks like. Ask the caller if the dog is licensed and/or microchipped. If it is, then ask him or her to bring proof of that or photographs of the dog when you meet each other with the dog. If there is no paperwork or photos, then ask him or her to meet you at your veterinarian's office where you can have the dog scanned by your vet. If you don't meet at your vet's office, be sure to take a second person with you and make sure to meet in a public location. Let someone at home know exactly where you will be going.
8. If you belong to an organized rescue group or if you routinely encounter loose and stray dogs, you can actually pre-make florescent "FOUND DOG" signs and have them on hand for the next time you find a dog.
9. Take a photo (digital if possible) of the dog and make up some smaller (8 1/2 X 11) black & white "FOUND DOG" flyers with a partial description of the dog, the location where you found the dog, and your contact information. Leave off certain details so all callers will be forced to identify the dog.



LOCAL NUMBERS TO CALL!

1. 911-advise dispatcher right away it is not a medical emergency but you have spotted or have possession of a lost dog. Also call if you have lost your dog.
2. Call Local Vet Clinics-I have listed a few for this area but there are more.
 - Summer's Ridge Vet Clinic – Janesville MN-507-234-6929
 - Waseca Vet Clinic-Waseca MN-507-835-1700
 - Premier Vet Clinic (OFFICAL POUND for Waseca County)-507-835-7100
 - Minnesota Valley Pet Hospital-Mankato MN- Phone: 507-345-5900.
 - North Mankato Pet Hospital-507-720-6700
 - River Hills Pet Hospital-Mankato MN-507-388-4500
 - Kind Veterinary Clinic-St. Peter MN-507-931-4700
 - Kind Veterinary Clinic-Le Center MN- 507-357-4911
 - Le Sueur Veterinary Clinic-Le Sueur MN- 507-665-2377
 - Minnesota Valley Veterinary Clinic-Le Sueur MN-507-665-2371
 - Nicollet Veterinary Clinic-Nicollet MN- 507-225-3401
3. Websites to post a found dog and look for lost dogs. Facebook (LOST DOGS – MN) and Facebook (SE-MN's LOST/FOUND PET PAGE)
 - a. Craig's List website for Minneapolis and all surrounding area.
4. Contact local rescue groups to see if anyone has reported a missing dog or if you are searching for your dog maybe someone brought to them. Here are a few of the local rescues...but there are many more do your research.

Also be aware these rescues are small and you may have to hold the animal temporarily while they make room.

 - Waseca County Animal Humane Society (Has a FB page)-507-201-7287 (foster based)
 - Mending Spirits (Has a FB page no contact number given) (foster based)
 - Faith, Hope and Forever (Has a FB page) (507) 933-0708 (foster based)
 - Riverside Regional Pet Shelter-Benches –(Has a FB page) 507-625-6373 (Shelter)
 - Waseca Animal Rescue (WAR-also has a FB page)-foster based-no phone number listed.