

LOST AND FOUND PETS

Pasco County Animal Services



If you have LOST OR FOUND a dog or a cat, please follow these steps:

Use the power of the internet. Pasco residents are encouraged to visit

www.pascocountyfl.net

- >*county agencies*
- >*animal services*
- >*quick links*
- >*all about dogs/cats*
- >*lost and found*

Or go directly to

www.pets911.com/lost-and-found-pets/

Lost Animals

- 🐾 **Post your lost pet on www.Pets911.com.** If everyone posted to a centralized source, like PETS 911, the number of pets who find their way home would skyrocket! More and more people are using the Internet for daily tasks and lost and found pets are no exception.
- 🐾 **Create flyers with a picture** (if available) and brief description of your pet. Post them at stores, vet offices, groomers, and anywhere else that will let you put one up. Make sure to include a phone number that is always available.
- 🐾 **Put an ad in your local newspaper(s).**
- 🐾 Look for your pet in unusual places around your home, including outside storm drains and ditches.
- 🐾 In many cases, pets don't go very far. It is not uncommon for a house cat, for example, to get scared and hide in the neighbor's bushes, too afraid to come out. So be sure to thoroughly search your immediate area before concentrating on areas farther away.
- 🐾 Put a message on your answering machine/voice mail that says, "If you are calling about our lost pet, call us on our cell phone at 555-555-5555."
- 🐾 **If you believe your pet was stolen, contact the police or sheriff** to file a police report.
- 🐾 **Contact the veterinarians in your area.** Let them know your dog is missing, and if he or she is turned in to their office and needs care, you will pay whatever amount (or up to a certain amount) to take whatever measures are needed to save his or her life. Give them your phone numbers in case they need to call you to confirm identity or if they need a credit card to start treatment.
- 🐾 Finally, and perhaps most importantly, continue to **visit your local shelters** every day.

Found Animals

Finders-Keepers, Right? Not Exactly...

- 🐾 A wandering animal may be someone's beloved pet. **Under the law, pets are considered personal property.** That means that a "finder" has certain responsibilities.
- 🐾 If you keep the animal at your home, contact the local newspapers and advertise that you have found a dog or cat. Advertise in the area where the animal was found. Many newspapers offer this as a free service. **Post a found animal on www.Pets911.com.** The owner may be checking the website every day.
- 🐾 **The animal is not your property until 90 days have passed and the owner hasn't answered your ad.** If the verifiable owner does come forward, you must return the animal. Keep receipts for any expenses incurred while caring for the animal. The owner must reimburse you for these expenses before the pet is returned.
- 🐾 If you cannot care for the animal, make arrangements for the animal to be turned in to a local shelter. Remember, the animal, as property, is not yours to give away or sell to an individual. To do so could constitute theft.
- 🐾 When you bring an animal to a shelter, they may be able to let you know if the animal remains unclaimed after a required holding period. Ask the shelter to contact you if you wish to personally adopt the pet in the event that no owner comes forward. As a rule, shelters will likely not be able to make any guarantees but would appreciate knowing of your interest in possibly adopting the animal.