

Virginia Beach Animal Services' Safety Net Team is committed to supporting pet owners, providing resources during challenging times, and working to prevent surrenders to the shelter, whenever possible.

By serving as a Finder-Foster, you are helping to carry out this mission, as well.

With your assistance, we are lessening the number of animals in the shelter, expediting reunifications, and helping animals in need.

THANK YOU!

**Need foster supplies?
Call to speak with a staff member or visit us at the shelter!**



**341 S Birdneck Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

**P: 757-385-4444
W: www.vbacac.com**



Step-by-Step Guide for Finders:

Everything you need to know about finding, fostering, and reunifying lost pets.

VIRGINIA BEACH ANIMAL SERVICES

YOU FOUND A STRAY PET. NOW WHAT?

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE : FIRST 48 HOURS

- Check tags/collar for contact info & attempt contacting owner
- Walk the animal around found location and ask those in the area if they recognize the animal
- Get pet scanned for a microchip at a local vet or pet supply store
- Contact Virginia Beach Animal Services and file a 'Found Report'
- Take and post pictures of the found pet on local Lost & Found pages (Facebook, NextDoor, Pawboost)
- Create and post 'Found Pet' flyers around the found location
- Contact Virginia Beach Animal Services if reunited within 48 hours

AFTER 48 HOURS:

- Bring found animal in to the shelter for official intake procedure & initiate the stray hold period

As the finder, you will have the option to foster the found animal during the stray hold period or relinquish the animal to the shelter.



FINDER-FOSTER

Finder-fosters temporarily hold onto a found pet while attempting to locate the owner with the assistance of the shelter. The finder provides a comfortable place to stay while the shelter provides any supplies needed for the pet including food, toys, food & water bowls, beds, crates, & more!








BENEFITS OF STRAY PETS STAYING WITH THE FINDER

1. Pets are less stressed in a home environment than in the shelter
2. Pets are often lost within a mile of their home so keeping them close improves the odds of a speedy reunification
3. Fosters can provide more information on the pet's personality, which helps future adopters if the pet is unclaimed.



FINDER REMINDERS:

-  Just because a pet is found, doesn't mean it was abandoned.
-  Pets are often lost within a mile of their home, so keeping them close by increases the likelihood of reunification with an owner.
-  Finders have **no** legal authority to rehome a found pet under their care.
-  Once an animal has undergone the intake process with the shelter, it must be held for a minimum of:
 - 5 days (if found without ID/microchip)
 - 10 days (if found with ID/microchip)

 If desired, finders may qualify to foster and/or adopt once the stray hold is completed!

*Finders are not obligated to take in a found pet. If the finder wishes to relinquish the animal to the shelter upon initial contact, they have the right to do so. The **VBAS Safety Net Team** encourages finders to assist with reunification efforts within the first 48 hours for the reasons stated above.*