



## Found Pet Tip Sheet

If you have found a pet in Whatcom County, we strongly recommend leaving him/her with the Whatcom Humane Society (WHS). As the Whatcom County animal control authority and a public facility, many owners come to the shelter daily to look for their missing pet and it can be difficult for an owner to locate their missing pet if the pet is being held in a private home. At WHS, all found pets are scanned for a microchip and any information on a pet's tag(s) will be used to notify the pet owner. We want to reunite as many pets as possible with their guardians. If you choose to keep a found pet at your private residence, you are legally required to file a Found Animal Report with WHS, or your local animal control provider, and make other attempts to search for the owner of the pet for a minimum of 30 days. Finders could be liable if an owner comes forward and has concerns about the situation in which the pet was held.

*These tips are intended to help reunite lost pets with their families. We urge anyone that comes across an unknown animal to use caution, if you do not feel safe, please contact your local animal control or police department immediately.*

- Check with residents in the area the pet was found. Go door-to-door and speak with as many neighbors in person as possible.
- Bring the found pet to the Whatcom Humane Society or a local vet to be scanned for a microchip.**
- Alert the microchip company that you have found a pet and leave your contact information with them (if applicable).
- File a found report with the Whatcom Humane Society and contact local veterinary offices to see if a client has reported the pet missing.**
- Place found ads on Craigslist (under the Community heading there is both a "Lost+Found" and "Pets" section) and on local social media groups like Lost Pets of Whatcom County (Facebook group).
- Create found pet flyers - post near the location the pet was found and high traffic areas such as intersections and main roads nearby.
- When reunited, update staff anywhere a found report was filed.

*If you have any questions or concerns about a found pet, please contact the Whatcom Humane Society!*

*Thank you for helping reunite a family!*

Whatcom Humane Society  
2172 Division Street  
Bellingham, Wa 98226  
(360) 733-2080 ext 0  
Wednesday-Saturday 10am-6pm  
Sunday & Monday 11am-5pm  
Closed Tuesdays and major holidays