

*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!**



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

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**P: 757-385-4444  
W: [www.vbacac.com](http://www.vbacac.com)**



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**Step-by-Step Guide  
for Finders:**

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

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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.*