

**Don't assume that just because you haven't seen a "lost" poster, the owner isn't looking for his/her pet.**

## CAN YOU KEEP A STRAY ANIMAL YOU HAVE FOUND?

No. While you may want to keep the stray animal you have found, the owner may be searching for their lost pet! Don't assume that just because you haven't seen a "lost" poster, the owner isn't looking for his/her pet. The animal may have been missing for a long time, or it may be a long way from home. It is your legal responsibility to take all reasonable steps to find the animal's owner.

If you decide to keep the animal while you search for his/her owner, you should still bring the animal to the Ottawa Humane Society to have it scanned for a microchip. Staff will also check the animal's gender, age and more. They will create a found report and photograph the animal.

You should also file a found report through our web site [www.ottawahumane.ca](http://www.ottawahumane.ca) or contact our Lost & Found department [landf@ottawahumane.ca](mailto:landf@ottawahumane.ca) or 613-725-9998. In addition, you should:

- Place a free notice in the "found" section of the newspaper.
  - *Ottawa Citizen* 613-829-9321
  - *Ottawa Sun* 613-739-3333
  - *Pennysaver* 613-733-4099
- Put up fliers in your neighbourhood (include a detailed description, photograph and contact phone number).
- Take the animal to a veterinary clinic to check for a microchip.

## A NOTE ABOUT LOST CATS

When we see a cat hanging around, we seldom think that it may be a lost pet. Our assumption is often that the animal is homeless. Often people will feed the cat for days or weeks before attempting to locate the owner. This limits the cat's chance of being reunited with its owner, who may simply live a few blocks away! This is why it is essential to put signs up around the neighbourhood and ask around for the owner.

Cats are very different from dogs. Dogs are more visible and will come up to people for affection and food when lost. Because they are smaller and usually less socially bonded with people, cats are generally less visible when they are lost. Cats will hide under balconies or in a garage, shed or other out-of-the-way space when lost, making it extremely difficult for their owner to locate them.

## WHERE IS THE MAS?

The MAS is located at the Ottawa Humane Society, 245 West Hunt Club Road between Prince of Wales and Merivale Road.

## MAS HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Closed statutory holidays

## IF YOU FIND AN ANIMAL...

**Have you ever noticed a frightened looking cat or dog wandering around a neighbourhood or hanging around your home?**

**Many people find themselves in similar situations and don't know what to do. What's the best way to help that animal?**



## IF YOU FIND AN ANIMAL...

Have you ever noticed a frightened looking cat or dog wandering around a neighbourhood or hanging around your home? Many people find themselves in similar situations and don't know what to do. What's the best way to help that animal?

First, assess the situation. Does the animal seem injured? If so, call the Ottawa Humane Society emergency line at 613-725-1532. However, if the animal doesn't appear to be in immediate distress, you can deliver the animal to the City of Ottawa Municipal Animal Shelter, which is run by and located at the Ottawa Humane Society. If the animal is a dog, you can contact the city's bylaw department to have the dog picked up.

## WHAT IS THE CITY OF OTTAWA MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTER?

The Municipal Animal Shelter, or MAS, is run by the Ottawa Humane Society on behalf of the City of Ottawa. The MAS cares for injured, lost and homeless animals brought in by City of Ottawa Bylaw Officers or the general public, or picked up in cases of injury or emergency by the Ottawa Humane Society's Rescue and Investigation Services. While they are at the MAS, the Lost and Found Department works hard to reunite each lost pet with its owner. Each year, the MAS cares for thousands of stray animals.

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## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BRING A STRAY ANIMAL TO THE MAS?

We will ask you some questions upon your arrival about where and when you found the animal. We need your name and address in case we need to contact you. Your information is confidential and will not be disclosed. We will check the animal for identification (microchip, tattoos and tags) and will search the lost reports on file.

## IS THERE A FEE FOR BRINGING A STRAY ANIMAL TO THE MAS?

No. Fees only apply to owners who claim or give up a pet.

## HOW LONG IS A STRAY ANIMAL KEPT AT THE MAS?

Stray animals are kept at the MAS for three business days, after which they become the property of the OHS. This period does not include day of entry, Sundays or holidays. The holding time gives the owner several days to claim their lost pet and gives staff time to try to find the animal's owner.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF AN OWNER DOES NOT CLAIM A STRAY PET?

A stray pet becomes the property of the Ottawa Humane Society if its owner does not claim it within the mandated holding period. It will be temperament-tested and health-checked to assess its suitability for adoption. If the animal is healthy and friendly, then it is made available for adoption at the end of the holding period.

## CAN YOU FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO A STRAY ANIMAL THAT YOU BRING IN?

You can ask shelter staff to give you the stray animal's shelter number, and you can call or email to inquire about the animal's status.

## CAN I ADOPT THE STRAY ANIMAL I BROUGHT IN?

You must apply to adopt the animal. If the animal is deemed adoptable and if you are considered a good match for that animal, you will be given first priority for adoption.

*Please support the animals in our community.*



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