

Q : I found a dog that looks lost – unwanted – abandoned – wandering loose – sick or injured.....what should I do?



A : You should immediately call the Dog Control Officer for the area where the dog was found, or the shelter that provides care for stray dogs from that area, or the local police department – and turn the dog over to them.

Q : What will they do with the dog?

A : The dog will be taken to the shelter or vet for the appropriate care and continue to be cared for while they try to locate the owner.

Q : Why can't I keep the dog until I find the owner?



A : There are many reasons:

- There is a state law that prohibits anyone from keeping a stray dog.
- Any responsible owner will be looking at the area shelters for their lost pet, and that's how they are able to get them back quickly.
- Shelters have equipment to scan each animal for microchip identification that can locate the owner, will check for tattoos, may recognize the pet & are able to identify breeds & neuter status of animals.
- This prevents the theft of pets.
- When the dog is at the shelter it is able to get the necessary medical attention it may need.

- It prevents the pet from becoming lost again or injured while in your care.
- Prevents putting yourself, your family, your pets and your neighbors at risk by having an animal who's health and background you do not know.
- The animal will never be legally yours, and the owner can show up months or years from now and take the pet back, which is devastating to a family.
- It's not your dog to keep.



And finally....

- it is the best way for you to truly help a lost pet!

Q : I heard the shelters put them to sleep right away or in 5 days , do they?

A : Absolutely not!!!! There is a legally mandated holding time for every stray dog that begins when the animal is picked up by Dog Control or is admitted to the appropriate shelter. That holding period is to give a responsible owner more than enough time to notice their pet is missing and call the shelter or Dog Control Officer.



Q : What if an owner doesn't show up?

A : Once the holding time for the owner to come for their pet expires the animal can then be legally placed up for adoption. All shelters have active adoption programs and advertise

their adoptable animals on www.petfinder.org and in the Press/Sun-Bulletin every Monday.

Q : What if I want to adopt the dog I found?

A : Once the animal is at the shelter just call or stop at that shelter and talk to the staff. Every organization operates according to their own procedures and guidelines, so it is important to confer with that shelter's staff as to their adoption policies. You can let them know during your conversation if you are interested in adopting the dog if no owner is located, or if you just want to call or visit the dog and be kept informed about how the dog is doing. Most organizations are happy to let you know either when the owner picks up their dog or when the dog has been adopted!

Q : What if I can't afford the adoption fee at the shelter?

A : Most people who will stop to help an animal are very caring people. While the animal certainly needs a caring person they also must have a person financially able to provide for their immediate and long-term care. If you find a shelter's adoption fee is not readily available in your budget then this is not the right time for your family to take on the responsibility of an animal. It is a very special person who is able to do what is morally and legally right (and is also in the best interest of the animal), ahead of what they personally want.

Q : Can I take the dog to the shelter myself?

A : For your safety and the dog's safety it is not recommended, however, if you decide to transport the dog yourself, first call the shelter that you plan on going to. They can give you any directions, hours or requirements they may have for individuals bringing in stray dogs.

Q : Is there any charge for a shelter to take a stray, lost or abandoned dog?

A : ABSOLUTELY NOT! It is illegal for any shelter to require, demand or ask any fee to accept a lost or stray dog. Any incident of this should be reported to:

State of New York
Dept. Of Agriculture & Markets
Attn: Animal Industries
1 Winners Circle
Albany, NY 12235-001



AND

call your Dog Control Officer so they can pick up the lost pet.



List of Dog Control Officers and the shelter where their stray dogs are housed:

- City of Binghamton**..... 772-7158
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Barker**..... 692-4917
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Town of Binghamton**..... 772-0357 x22
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Chenango**..... 797-6019
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Colesville**..... 693-1486
Humane Society..... 724-3709
- Conklin**..... 343-7823
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Dickinson**..... 797-6019
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Fenton**..... 648-5238 x5
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Kirkwood**..... 775-4353
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Lisle**..... 849-4652
Tammy Swarts..... 849-4652
- Maine**..... 862-0035
Humane Society..... 724-3709
- Nanticoke**..... 862-9291
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Sanford**..... 467-5027
Delaware Valley SPCA..... 563-7780
- Triangle**..... 849-6601
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Union**..... 786-2940
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493
- Vestal**..... 748-1514 x5
Vestal Veterinary Hospital..... 754-3933
- Windsor**..... 655-2463
Front Street Dog Shelter..... 778-2493

The Front Street Dog Shelter has provided this brochure to educate the public and to help pet owners safeguard pets from being stolen.

If you have a question please call the Front Street Dog Shelter

(607) 778-2493

REVISED 4/06

"I FOUND A DOG, NOW WHAT?"



**ANSWERS TO
FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS
WHEN YOU, A FRIEND,
RELATIVE OR NEIGHBOR
FIND A DOG.**

Front Street Dog Shelter
110 Cutler Pond Road
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 778-2493