

# What to do if You Find a Dog

When noticing a stray dog, there are two options:

1. Contact your local dog warden or shelter before taking the dog into your care. Once you take possession of a stray dog, you're legally considered its keeper — and that comes with responsibilities. Call (937) 898-4457 and be prepared to answer a few questions that help us enter and prioritize a call for service; or

2. If you are able and willing to assist the dog in finding its home, follow the below tips.

## Check for a dog license

By law, every dog should be wearing a current year dog license. If you find a dog that is wearing a Montgomery County license tag, you can look up a tag number by visiting [www.mcoho.org/dogs](http://www.mcoho.org/dogs). Alternatively, you may call us at (937) 898-4457 and we will provide you with the owner's information. If the license is from a different county, please visit [www.ocdwa.org](http://www.ocdwa.org), go to the state directory, and choose the appropriate county to contact their shelter directly.

## No license? What about a rabies tag?

Similarly, if you find a dog with a rabies tag please call Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County at (937) 225-4460 and they will be able to assist you in identifying and locating the owner.

## Check social media

Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor are perfect for locating and reuniting lost pets with their families. Create a post with a picture of the animal as well as some basic information such as when and where it was found, and ask friends to share it. There are also Facebook pages specifically dedicated to reuniting lost pets with their owners.

## Check for a chip

If an animal does not have identification via a dog license, rabies tag or ID tag, contact your local police department, a veterinarian or the ARC (that's us!) and ask about scanning for a microchip.

## Report the dog as found in TWO places

- Report the dog as found to increase the chances of being reunited with its family. Call the ARC at [937-898-4457](tel:937-898-4457), option 2 to provide information and a photograph of the dog.
- [lost.petcolove.org](http://lost.petcolove.org) to report "I Found A Pet"

## Talk to neighbors

Chances are, someone is looking for and missing their pup. Talk to neighbors and see if they have seen this dog before and know who it belongs to.



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## **I've Tried Everything and Can't Find the Owners!**

So you've searched here, there and everywhere, and this pup's owners are nowhere to be found - what are your options?

### **Provide temporary shelter**

Just because an owner hasn't been found yet doesn't mean they won't eventually! If you are able to provide a temporary home for the dog while waiting for someone to come forward, this is the best option. Shelters, no matter how nice they may be, are no replacement for a loving home - even if it's only for a few days. The animal shelter environment suffers from: overcrowding; constant introduction of new, unknown animals; increased stress for pets; and heightened risk of spreading illness.

If you are providing a temporary home for a dog, the ARC can help with food or supplies. Contact us at **937-898-4457** or **AnimalShelter@mcohio.org** to learn more.

### **Rehome the pup**

If enough time has passed (we recommend waiting at least 3 days) and you've done everything possible to find a dog's owners, you may keep or rehome the dog yourself. As we mentioned above, shelters are truly no place for a dog. If you or someone else chooses to keep the dog, please call us at (937) 898-4457 to explain the situation and we will walk you through the steps to officially and legally add a new furry friend to your family!

