



## **What to do when they find a dog or cat**

There are canned responses for this below. Please tell people not to re-home a dog or cat they just found. Even if the cat or dog is skinny and looks uncared for, how do they know that dog or cat hasn't just been missing from home a long time and starving because it's been lost? They need to check for a microchip, put up a post on the lost and found section of Craigslist (leave out some info only a real owner would know, like whether it's male or female, any identifying marks, etc.). If in Travis County they need to register the animal as found with Austin Animal Center. If nobody claims the animal in 3 days then they can re-home. If they cannot do these things themselves then they need to surrender the animal to the shelter so the shelter can do them. If this is a small dog or puppy they want APA! to take they must take the re-homing steps first and then in 3 days get back to us. We cannot risk adopting out someone's lost pet.

### *Found Dog or Cat Canned Response*

Hi, \_\_\_\_

Thanks for helping this \_\_\_\_! If this pet has an APA! microchip or was adopted from us, please email our adopt team at [adoption email] so they can connect you with the owner, or so we can take this pet back if the owner cannot be located!

If this pet was not micro-chipped or adopted from APA! then the first order of business if you haven't already done so, is to check it for a micro-chip. This can be done at any vet for free and only takes a few seconds.

After that, put up an ad on the lost and found section of Craigslist. Leave out some info only a true owner would know. Also, put up posters all over the area where you found this pet. If an owner doesn't come forward in a week, then you can start the re-homing process. Please email us back at that time for resources on how to do that.

If you do not have time to do these things and you are in Travis County you can surrender to Austin Animal Center. They will check for a microchip, give the owner time to reclaim their pet, and then put this pet up for adoption or rescue. They only euthanize for aggression and illness, and APA! and other rescues pull from there if an animal is at risk. If you are in Williamson County you can surrender the pet to the Wilco shelter. They only euthanize for aggression and illness, too!

If you are in some other county please let us know so we can share more resources.

Thanks,