



Found a Lost Pet?

New Study Says Keeping Them in the Neighborhood, Not the Shelter, is How to Get Them Home!

Lost dog and cat numbers are currently up in Davis County over previous years. When these pets are eventually found, the vast majority of them are picked up less than a mile from their homes. Every year however, hundreds of them are still taken to the shelter which can often be several miles and a long drive away from where they really need to be! With Animal Care of Davis County already near capacity, and other area shelters full or nearly full as well, we need to work together as a community to get as many lost pets as possible back in their homes to avoid further overcrowding.

A new study published in the *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* journal finds that 70% of lost dogs are found less than a mile from their homes, and 42% are found *less than 400 feet away!*

What should I do if I find a lost pet?

- File a [Found Report](#) online with Animal Care of Davis County. You can either come to the shelter or visit any veterinary office to get the animal scanned for a microchip. Contact the owner if the pet has a registered chip or if it's wearing identification.
- Post the pet's picture and where it was found to local Facebook Lost and Found Pet Groups, Nextdoor, KSL, and other neighborhood social media platforms. Get the word out!
- Post Found Animal signs in the immediate area where you found the pet (if you're unable to print at home, signs are available at the shelter).

As we now know, the best way to reunite lost pets with their families is to keep them in the neighborhood where they're found instead of bringing them to the animal shelter. Because of this, Animal Care of Davis County is pleased to announce a new short-term foster program for individuals who've found a lost pet.

The Friendly Finders program is designed to allow individuals who've found a lost pet in their neighborhood to keep that pet while we search for its family. Friendly Finders are able to keep and care for a lost pet during the hold period while Animal Care of Davis County provides any medical care and supplies the pet may need. Friendly Finders has been running since early October 2022, and nearly every single pet fostered through this program has been reunited with its family so far... That's pretty incredible!

If an owner has not been located after five business days, the finder has a few options:

- The lost pet can be brought to the shelter in hopes of finding it a new forever family.
- The finder can choose to continue to foster the pet while the animal shelter actively searches for a forever home for the animal.
- The finder can adopt the animal themselves, keeping their new pet in their home without it ever having to stay a single night in the animal shelter.

The Friendly Finders program ultimately allows the pet to stay in a warm home while trying to locate its owner, and also allows good Samaritans like you an opportunity to be involved in the process. Animal Care of Davis County is excited to offer this program and looks forward to working with our community to reunite all of the lost pets with their families!