

## **Found Pets Resources**

HSoP sees roughly 400 stray pets annually, and we want to get as much resources out to pet owners as possible about lost and found pets. Many of these pets are returned to their owners, but often times stray pets are not claimed. It can be alarming, and catch you off guard to find a roaming pet, so here are some resources to help you!

## **Found Pets:**

- Always check a found pet for identification first! This could be a name tag on the pet's collar, a phone number
  written on the pet's collar, or even a microchip. All of our local veterinary clinics and shelters have microchip
  scanners, and can scan found pets during their operating hours.
  - Microchip companies are unable to provide owner contact information to general citizens due to privacy reasons, so a shelter or veterinary clinic must contact the company to receive owner information.
- Contact your shelters and rescues: You can check to see if any owner has contacted them regarding their missing pet. You can also leave a found report with them, in case an owner calls looking for their pet.
  - You can also contact your local police department to leave a report with them as well. The City of Moscow
    Police Department and Latah County Sheriff Office regularly respond to stray dog calls, and may have
    already been contacted by a frantic owner looking for their lost pet.
- Make Flyers: HSoP has a bulletin board in our entry way that is dedicated to lost/found pets. Please bring a flyer to us, and we will post it for all of our visitors to see.
  - Reminder: There is a Moscow City Ordinance that prohibits flyers being hung on City Property (light poles, power poles, etc.) Always ask a business first if you can hang your flyer.
  - o Give flyers to your local mail person, newspaper delivery person, neighbors, etc.
- Social Media: social media has proven to be one of the quickest ways to reunite pets with their owners! We are lucky to have quite a few Facebook pages dedicated to owned pets in our area. You can search these groups for possible owners for the pet you found, and post the pet to hopefully reach the owner. These pages are filled with animal lovers who can offer advice, resources, and help to reunite pets with their owners. Be sure to join these groups:
  - "Moscow and Surrounding Areas Lost/Found pets"
  - "Lost and found pets of Moscow, Pullman, and surrounding areas"
  - "Zeus's Friends Lost and Found Pet Network"
  - "Lost and found pets of Troy, Deary, Bovill, and surrounding areas"
  - "Potlatch/Princeton Area Lost/Found Pets"
  - "Pullman Area Lost/Found Pets"
- Proof of Ownership: Many times, it is best to require proof of ownership when returning a pet to a potential owner. We at HSoP will leave out specific markings, gender, alteration status, and collar descriptions on our found animal posts, so we can verify this information with anyone who contacts us as a potential owner. This allows us to ensure we are returning the pet to the rightful owner.