



FOUND PETS

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A LOST PET

Many pets go missing every year. According to a survey done by the ASPCA asking 1,015 households that have owned a pet in the last 5 years, 15% had lost a dog or cat within that time frame with 85% of those lost dogs and cats being recovered; The percentage of lost dogs compared to lost cats was quite similar – 14% for dogs and 15% for cats; and cat guardians were less likely to find their cat – only 74% of lost cats were recovered, while 93% of lost dogs were recovered.

In addition, there were differences in the ways in which the lost dogs and cats were recovered. 49% of dog guardians found their dog by searching the neighborhood, and 15% of the dogs were recovered because they were wearing an ID tag or had a micro-chip; 59% of cat guardians found their cat because it returned home on its own; 30% found their cat by searching the neighborhood; and Only 6% of dog guardians and 2% of cat guardians found their lost pets at a shelter.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE FOUND A PET?

First things first, does the pet have a collar or tags on? If so, call the numbers provided. Make sure and look closely at a collar, some pet owners will write the number directly on the collar.

According to data, most dogs are found just by their owners while out looking for them themselves and cats tend to just show back up at home. If you have found a dog or cat, drive around, and see if anyone seems to be out looking for them. Knock on the surrounding residences to see if anyone is missing the pet or if they recognize it.

Take a picture of the pet and post it on social media. Alpine has a wonderful page on Facebook called Alpine Friendly Pets which reunite pets with people often. You may actually see the pet posted as missing there as well

Take the pet by one of the local veterinary clinics, the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, the Alpine Police Department, or the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and have the pet scanned for a microchip. All of these locations have a microchip scanner here in Alpine.

ARE YOU ABLE TO HOLD ON TO THE PET TEMPORARILY?

If so, it is very important that you report the pet as found to Alpine Animal Services. When pets go missing, it is common for people to call us when they are missing their pet. We may have a missing pet report on file for that specific pet. Also, don't forget to post the pet as found on local social media pages, Alpine Friendly Pets is the most commonly

used pet specific page for Alpine residents.

NOT ABLE TO HOLD THE PET?

Call Alpine Animal Services Dispatch, 432-837-3486, to have the pet picked up within city limits or call 432-837-9030 if you plan on taking it to the shelter. Please remember that Alpine Animal Services is designated for Alpine animals and may not be able to take an animal from outside of city limits. It is still very important to be honest when bringing a pet to the shelter so that our staff can make sure to reach out to or give you contacts for other agencies where the pet went missing!

If you feel that it would not be safe to approach or handle an animal DO NOT DO IT, your safety is the most important.

Please call Alpine Animal Services dispatch line, 432-837-3486, to have an Animal Services Officer come out to you.

