

I FOUND A DOG

— NOW WHAT? —

10 THINGS TO DO RIGHT AWAY
A quick checklist from Somebody to the Rescue

1 GET TO SAFETY

Move away from traffic or danger if you can do so safely. A scared or injured dog may bite.

2 POST SMART

Share a photo and general area, but consider withholding one identifying detail for verification.

3 SEPARATE FROM PETS

Keep the found dog apart from your animals until health and temperament are known.

4 VERIFY THE OWNER

Ask for clear proof: vet records, older photos, identifying details, microchip information, or other proof.

5 SAVE THE DETAILS

Record the exact location, date and time found. Take several clear photos.

6 SEARCH LOST POSTS

Check local groups, shelter listings, neighborhood pages and lost/found pet databases.

7 CHECK ID + MICROCHIP

Check collar/tags if safe. A veterinarian or shelter can scan for a microchip.

8 KEEP A RECORD

Save screenshots, posts, messages, names, dates and the steps you've taken to locate the owner.

9 REPORT AS FOUND

Notify the appropriate local shelter or agency and follow local found-pet rules.

10 ASK FOR HELP EARLY

If you cannot keep the dog temporarily, contact shelters, rescues and possible fosters right away.

IMPORTANT:

Finding a dog does not automatically make the dog yours.

Lost/found laws, reporting requirements and hold periods vary by location. Follow local rules before rehoming, adopting out or transferring a found animal.

SomebodyToTheRescue.org

pawtrace.somebodytotherescue.org