



Finder-to-Foster Programs

What is a Finder-to-Foster Program?

In the past, we trained our communities to bring us every animal they found even if that pet was only a couple of doors down from its home! Research shows us animals are more than twice as likely to successfully get home if they are kept in their neighborhood as opposed to being brought to the shelter. If someone finds an animal and they're willing to hold on to it they can file a "Found" report and the shelter can be the liaison between the finder and the owner, helping them locate one another to get the pet home without having to come to the shelter. When the finder calls or comes to the shelter, you can either ask them to hold the pet without surrendering it, or you can enroll the pet as an intake but foster the pet back to the finder until it is reclaimed or the stray hold expires. Shelters who are practicing [finder-to-foster](#) have one regret - that they didn't start earlier! It's easy and people love having an opportunity to help.

Sample Resources

Finder-to-Foster Programs

- Finder-to-Foster [webpage](#), Oakland Animal Services
- Finder-to-Foster [agreement](#), [voucher](#), [informational flier](#) and [Animal Advocate checklist](#), LifeLine Animal Project
- Short video about LifeLine Animal Project's [Friendly Finder program](#)

Marketing

- Found pet photo tips: <https://heartsspeak.org/found-pet-photo-tips/>
- Bio writing toolkit: <https://heartsspeak.org/bio-writing-toolkit/>