



Finder-to-Foster Programs

What is a Finder-to-Foster Program?

In the past, we trained our communities to bring us every pet they found even if that pet was only a couple of doors down from its home! Research shows that 60% of pets who entered the shelter as strays and were later reunited with their caretakers were [found within a mile of their homes](#). Because pets are frequently found so close to home, they have a higher chance of successful reunification if they are kept in their neighborhood instead of being brought 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. For example, someone willing to hold onto a found pet can file a “Found” report and the shelter can be the liaison between the finder and any potential owner, helping the pet home without coming to the shelter. Shelters that 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/>