

DID YOU FIND A DOG? ARE YOU WONDERING WHAT TO DO?

Houston has an animal overpopulation crisis with few options for homeless or unwanted dogs. Rescue groups are overwhelmed by the numbers and the city shelters are not always an option. If you find a dog and can't help it, odds are no one else will either. Be your own hero--help a dog in need.



IF YOU SEE A HOMELESS OR ABANDONED DOG, APPROACH IT CAREFULLY.

- If it is injured, call the SPCA at 713-869-SPCA (7722).
- If it is aggressive, contact BARC at 311.
- If the dog is not aggressive and is otherwise approachable, give it food and water and take it to a vet to scan for a microchip.



IF THE MICROCHIP DOESN'T LOCATE THE OWNER, TRY OTHER WAYS.

- Distribute Found Dog flyers in the area where you found it.
- Post it on your social media and on the Houston Lost & Found Pets Facebook page.
- Post on NextDoor and any other neighborhood specific sites.

YOU CAN'T FIND THE DOG'S OWNER. WHAT NEXT?

- Unfortunately, there aren't many options. You can try taking the dog to BARC or Harris Co. Animal Control but they may not be accepting animals and or/or may euthanize it. Other shelters charge a surrender fee and may also euthanize.
- An animal rescue group may have room for the dog but that is unlikely.
- Your best bet for helping this dog is to find it a home yourself.



FINDING THE DOG A HOME: NEXT STEPS.

- Get the dog vaccinated and fixed. Some rescue groups offer to help with costs if you promise to take responsibility for finding the dog a home.
- Assess the dog's behavior around other dogs, on a leash, and indoors and outdoors. If you think it is safe, see how it interacts with children and cats.
- Make a flyer with photos of the dog and basic information like approximate age and breed, size and weight, demeanor and vetting status. Describe how it gets along with other dogs, children and cats.
- Then promote, promote, promote! Share the flyer at work, church and other places. Post it on social media and send it to friends, coworkers and relatives and ask them to also share it.



WHEN YOU FIND A POTENTIAL ADOPTER, CHECK THEM OUT.

- Meet the adopter at a dog park or other public area and ask them to bring their own dog(s) if any.
- Ask about fencing and security in their yard, whether the dog will be kept indoors or outdoors, where it will sleep, etc.
- If possible, do a home visit. Trust your instincts; if the situation doesn't feel right, don't leave the dog in the home.
- Ask for photos of the dog once it's settled into its new home.
- If the adoption doesn't work out, please offer to take the dog back.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THIS DOG BUT THERE IS STILL A LOT TO DO.

- Reach out to the mayor and other elected officials and tell them Houston needs to do more about our animal overpopulation crisis.
- Tell them you care very much about this issue and that it's time for a comprehensive and humane plan that includes free and low cost spay neuter options, especially in low income areas.
- Contact us for more information at info@barriodogs.org.

