

Finder to Foster Program

Purpose

To formalize the Pasco County Animal Services Finder to Foster Program ensuring all animals found have the opportunity to remain with the finding patron, regulations for return of the animal to PCAS and permanent placement of the pet.

Responsibility/Scope

Directors
Department Supervisors
Lead Animal Care Technicians
Animal Care Technicians
Animal Control Officers

Definitions

- Finder – Any citizen that finds a stray or lost pet in Pasco County
- Stray – a pet with no known owner, found in Pasco County
- Foster – The act of caring for a pet who would otherwise be housed in the shelter until a time when it can be accepted back to the shelter or until it can become sterilized and adopted

Procedures

- Pasco County Animal Services offers a 'Finder to Foster' program to help actively reduce the number of animals entering the facility through support of the public, mainly those finding lost or stray pets in their community (refer to 'PCAS Stray Animal Intake SOP' for accepted animal guidelines).
- Finder to Foster Program can be made available to any Finder. Finder is not obligated to foster any animals brought to PCAS and may relinquish the rights of any found animal at any time, as long as it is one normally accepted by PCAS. Equally, PCAS staff reserves to the right deny any Finder the opportunity to foster.
 - Those qualifying for the Finder to Foster Program must not have been convicted of animal cruelty.



- PCAS staff may deny Finder to Foster if it is deemed upon intake that reuniting the animal with an owner is more likely if the animal remains in the care of the shelter (i.e. traceable microchip, traceable tag, traceable license, lost pet report match, etc.).
- Confined stray animals in the field can be entered in the Finder to Foster Program. Animal Control Officers are unable to carry vaccinations and proper medical equipment for a full intake in the field however, if a Finder in the field is interested in entering the Finder to Foster Program he/she will need to sign the current “failure to surrender” form with the officer. The Finder then has the choice to physically bring the animal to the shelter to be entered into the program and receive full core vaccinations. The officer should thoroughly scan the animal for a microchip and collect a high quality photo upon signature of the “failure to surrender” form for use on the PCAS website, found animal website partners and social media in an attempt to reunite the animal with its original owner.
- All found animals will be entered into the PCAS Animal Management software (Pet Point) as a stray animal per normal SOP. All animals will receive core vaccinations and additional medical resources (i.e. dewormer) upon intake per normal SOP. A high quality photo will be taken upon intake for use on the PCAS website, found animal website partners and social media in an attempt to reunite the animal with its original owner.
- The animal will then be checked out to the Finder in Pet Point as a foster animal. If, at this time, the Finder has expressed interest in adopting the animal past the legal stray period, an adoption hold will be placed on the animal in Pet Point. The animal will then be scheduled for a foster recheck date and/or surgery date, whichever arrives first, past the legal stray hold time as determined by the intake type (refer to ‘PCAS Stray Animal Intake SOP’ for legal hold times).
 - Shelter staff must obtain the following information from a Finder upon entering the Finder to Foster Program: name, address, phone number, email address, driver’s license number
- PCAS will provide medical care for the Finder while the animal is in their care for all shelter related illnesses. PCAS will not provide medical care for preexisting conditions or serious medical conditions/injuries suffered while in the care of the Foster. PCAS will provide food for the animal only when these resources are available. Finder should check with a shelter customer service representative or the Pet Services Supervisor for available resources.



**Pasco
Animal
Services**
pascocountyfl.net/PAS

To ensure the health and safety of the people and pets in our community

- Finder will sign the 'Finder to Foster Agreement' to be kept on file with PCAS. This document should be signed electronically in Pet Point or signed and scanned into the documents portion of Pet Point.

