



Pinal County Animal Care and Control
Subdivision of the Department of Health and Human Services

Policy #1:20

Subject: Finder to Foster

Date: 01-01-2025

Pages: 1

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to ARS 11-1013, Pinal County Animal Care and Control has been authorized to establish policies and procedures for stray animals found by citizens that wish to foster during the 72-hour stray wait period.

PURPOSE: To establish policy and procedure with regard to stray finders that would like to foster during the stray wait period of 72 hours.

SCOPE: All employees of Pinal County Animal Care and Control.

POLICIES:

- A. Pinal County Animal Care and Control will take appropriate steps to ensure all stray animals can be reunited with their owners. If Pinal County Animal Care and Control is lacking space to house a stray, citizens can care for a stray animal they have found for the 72-hour stray wait period, as long as all policies procedures have been recorded.

PROCEDURES:

- B. If a citizen calls and wants to foster a stray animal they have found, these steps must be taken before the animal can stay with the finder.
 - 1. Best practice would require the finder to bring the animal into our facility to scan for a microchip, vaccinate, and take a picture. An animal record will be made with cross streets and city the animal was found. The finder's information and ID will also be added to the animal's record, along with any other markings, tattoos, or a collar the animal may have been wearing at the time it was found. Foster paperwork must be completed before the finder and animal leave the facility.
 - 2. If the finder cannot bring the animal to our shelter, we can have the finder complete "found" and "foster" forms listing all of the above information and email it back to our administrators. The finder would need to take the animal to a Veterinarian's

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office and have it scanned for a microchip. This record (if any) will be emailed to our team, and researched. If the microchip has an owner, our administrative team will call the finder and let them know we have an owner, and they should bring the animal to our shelter. If the finder permits, we can give the finder or the owner a phone number so they can be in contact and find a drop off/pickup point that suits both parties.

3. If the finder is unable to take the animal to a Veterinarian's office, an Officer may be sent to scan the animal, as well as give the animal a Parvo/Distemper and Bordetella vaccine, but only if time and staffing permit.
4. Once all the above steps have been taken, Pinal County Animal Care and Control will post the found animal on all social media platforms, as well as 24 Pet Connect. Language must reflect that the animal is not in our care, and is being fostered for space until the stray hold is over. (72 hours)
5. If the finder has decided they can no longer foster the found animal, they will be required to bring it into our facility, during business hours. If they cannot bring the animal to our shelter, we may send an Officer for pick up, but only if time and staffing permit.
6. If the stray animal is not reclaimed within the 72 hours stray wait period, the finder is free to either continue fostering, or adopt at this point. If the finder chooses to continue fostering, and has no intention on adoption, they will be required to take pictures and network the animal through our social media sites, or send them to our team for posting. If the finder wishes to adopt, the animal will be scheduled for surgery and the adoption paperwork will be completed at pick-up.