

# Found Dog Guide



**Found a dog?  
Here's what to do next!**

**I DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE DOG TO THE POUND SHELTER:** Please post the dog on Facebook, check with neighbors, and notify Animal Control that you have found a dog in the event someone contacts them. 503-397-1521

**I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE DOG:** Dogs are considered property. You can follow the found property laws. It **ONLY** takes 90 days and then the dog is considered yours. Make sure you keep records of complying with the law, so someone doesn't claim that you stole their dog.

**90 DAYS? THAT'S TOO LONG:** As a finder you can participate in one of two options. Option one is a finder foster to adopt where the county impounds the dog, but you keep the dog while the county searches for the owner. If dog goes unclaimed you can obtain legal paperwork making you the new owner of the dog. Option two is working with the county, so you can be considered first to adopt the dog. The dog will go through evaluation, necessary medical, and preparation for adoption where you will have the first option.

**THE DOG APPEARS NEGLECTED:** The best option is to refrain from posting on social media and immediately contacting Animal Control to allow them to conduct an investigation of the dog's health conditions and provide care for the animal.

**CAN I REHOME THE DOG?:** While a finder may have some legal rights to a found dog. Rehoming a dog that does not belong to you can become a felony theft of lost or mislaid property. The person the dog is rehomed to has **NO** legal protections under found property laws. The best option is to contact Animal Control where we will impound the dog and the person interested in keeping the dog can go through the normal adoption process.

**OREGON LAW:** Under Oregon law each dog is recognized as a victim in cases of animal abuse or neglect. However they are also recognized as a person's property and the owner is entitled to a due process before a dog can be removed from their custody. Keeping or disposing of someone's property, such as a dog, is a **FELONY**. Good intentions do not mitigate felony charges. If you have concerns, please allow the county to investigate the situation.