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NEVER CHASE a scared lost dog!

These lists may not always be up to date. If you can't find who you are looking for or nobody responds to your call please contact your local Sheriff / Police Dept. or Town Office for information

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#### IMMEDIATE STEPS TO TAKE WHEN FINDING A STRAY DOG

1. FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT CALL YOUR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND REPORT THE DOG AS FOUND. Someone looking for their dog will be calling the ACO's and the Shelters. If you keep the dog in your home you risk the owner not finding their dog. Even if you post on social media, remember, not everyone has access to Facebook or frequents Craigslist.- Here is a link to ACO's in Maine. <http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/aw/ACOs.shtml>
2. CALL OR TAKE THE DOG TO THE NEAREST SHELTER - Here is a link to Animal Shelters in Maine. <http://www.animalsheltersinmaine.com/>
3. PUT THE DOG ON-LEASH AND WALK HIM/HER AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD - In many cases, the dog will not be far from home, and someone may be out there looking for him / her
4. TAKE THE ANIMAL TO THE NEAREST VETERINARIAN - Most veterinary clinics will be very happy to scan the animal for a microchip, which will lead to contact information for the animal's owner.
5. MAKE A FOUND FLYER

Make and post "found" flyers in the area that give a brief description of the pet found and your contact info. We do not encourage holding the dog in your home to be claimed. Some people do have unsavory reasons for taking pets who don't belong to them and going through official means will ensure the dog is returned to the legal owner. Make sure anyone who calls to claim the pet can show you a matching photo before you hand the pet over to them. Again, we encourage reporting the dog through the Animal Control Office and or Shelter. They will be able to verify official identity.

#### 6. TAKE CARE IF YOU BRING THE PET HOME

If the pet is infested with fleas, use a flea-control product immediately.

If your pets are not fully vaccinated, or are immune-suppressed, keep the stray away from your pets until you know it doesn't have a contagious illness.

Wash your hands well after handling the stray, and clean up waste immediately.

Introduce the animal to your children and pets cautiously, to ensure that they are friendly. Be cautious at feeding time and around toys -- some dogs can be protective with food and toys.

WARNING! There are unsavory individuals out there phoning people offering to find your dog for money up front, refunded if not successful. DO NOT EVER give money to anyone claiming they can find your dog. This is a huge scam and is happening all over the country. USE CAUTION PLEASE! They are feeding off your worries and desperation to steal your money!

We wish you a safe and happy!

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