

Stray to Foster Resources and Guidelines



THANK YOU for helping us get this pet **HOME!** Your efforts are so appreciated and will make a huge difference in the life of this animal.

■ Post about the stray on nextdoor

- You can post the following with a picture and a link to our website on the Nextdoor App:

"On [date] I found this stray [dog/cat] on [street name]. If this is your lost pet, please go to the local county shelter ASAP: Guilford County Animal Services, 980 Guilford College Rd., Greensboro, NC 27409. You can also reach the Front Desk at 336-641-3400 or our Intake Department at 336-641-3413. Be advised that you **MUST** show proof that this is your animal via photo, vet records, or bill of sale/registration papers to reclaim the animal. "



- On Nextdoor, do **NOT** post the pet for adoption, as these kinds of posts are not allowed. Please only post the lost pet to look for the owner.
- Potential owners should come to the shelter **immediately** to discuss how to reclaim their pet(s). 980 Guilford College Rd. Staff will be available for a reclaim Mon-Sun from 8 AM to 5 PM.

■ Post about the pet on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media pages you may be connected with.

- We recommend that you post the animal's individual ShelterLuv link when you share the pet on social media. You can copy and paste the URL of the pet's profile from our website (<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/animal-services>) under the "Strays" tab.
- Potential owners should come to the shelter immediately to discuss how to reclaim their pet(s).

- Potential adopters and fosters should inquire about the pet via the contact information provided on the animal's individual adoption page link after the 72 hour stray hold has passed.

■ Hang flyers in the area where you found the pet

- We strongly encourage creating flyers to hang up around the neighborhood which have the pet's photo, the date, found street & zip code, and our shelter contact information.

Program Overview

Thank you for applying to be a Stray to Foster caregiver. For decades, we have told people to bring unwanted and found pets to shelters so we could take care of them. However, shelters are scary and stressful places where animals are more susceptible to illness and behavioral deterioration. This is where the community comes in: by taking this animal into your home you are providing a safe space for them to be until their family finds them. Reuniting animals with their humans is the primary goal of the program.

We ask for your assistance by posting to social media sites (Nextdoor, Facebook Lost & Found pages, Finding Rover, Pawboost) and hanging flyers in the area where the animal was found. GCAS will provide you with supplies when we have them available, including food, crate, toys, and blankets.

After the 72 hour stray hold period, the animal will be available for adoption and as the Stray-Foster you will have the first option to adopt.

Guidelines

- Foster dogs are **NOT** allowed in dog parks or off-leash outside of the home until the stray hold period is over. Greetings with other off-leash dogs are not permitted until the stray hold period is over. ***Please keep in mind, this dog is not your property.*** We are aiming to keep the dog safe for it's owner, should they come forward, and prevent any liability on the part of the Finder-Foster during the stray hold period. Cats are to remain kenneled during travel and outside. Only remove a cat from a carrier once secured inside the home.
- If any medical issues arise, the animal must be brought to GCAS for medical care. If you take the animal to your own vet you are taking responsibility for payment of any charges.
- Contact GCAS if any major behavioral issues arise such as altercations or bites to humans or other animals.
- If you have other animals in your home, please keep the foster animal separated for feeding and at times when you are not there to directly supervise interactions.
- We recommend keeping dogs in a crate when no one is home to prevent damage to the home or altercations with other pets.
- DO NOT RETURN THE ANIMAL TO A POTENTIAL OWNER WITHOUT THE SUPERVISION OF A STAFF MEMBER.** If the owner has been found, schedule a time to meet at the shelter to exchange the animal with a staff member assisting you. Essential paperwork must be done and proof of ownership must be shown to a staff member before the owner can reclaim the animal from the shelter.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the 'stray hold' period before an animal is available for adoption?

The stray hold period is 72 hours. An employee will be in touch to let you know when the stray hold period for the specific animal you are fostering ends.

What happens if the owner is found/comes forward? What do I have to do?

Owners are asked to come to GCAS to reunite with their animal. Should you meet the owners outside of GCAS, have them contact us immediately, and plan to come to GCAS to complete the process. Stray-Fosters will be asked to bring the animal in to be reunited at the shelter. Do **NOT** give an animal back to a potential owner without a GCAS staff member assisting you in this process.

How do I go about adopting? What are the next steps?

After the stray hold period, if the owners have not been found, the animal is available for adoption pending no medical or behavioral concerns. You will need to complete an application and let a shelter employee or the Foster Coordinator know you want to adopt.

Unaltered animals: The animal will be scheduled for a spay/neuter surgery and upon completion of surgery, the adoption will be completed. At that time, you'll pay the adoption fees and get their microchip and medical information.

Altered animals: Schedule a time with an employee to come to the shelter or ask if a virtual adoption can be done. At that time you'll pay the adoption fee.

What if I don't want to adopt?

You are not required to adopt the animal and can bring it back to GCAS at any time during the stray hold period. Once the 72 hour hold is complete, the animal can come back to the shelter to go on the adoption floor.

I don't want to adopt, but can I keep fostering until a forever home is found?

Of course! We will schedule some time with you to get more information about the animal to properly match it with an adopter, get photos/videos, and create a bio for the GCAS website. Your primary contact will then become the Foster Coordinator instead of the Intake Department.

What happens if I have a medical issue with the foster animal during the stray hold period?

All medical issues will be handled at GCAS. Should a serious medical issue arise, bring the animal into GCAS and our vet staff will treat the animal. After hours emergencies will require contacting the Foster Coordinator to get approval for emergency vet services via one of our partner hospitals. Should you choose to take the animal to your own veterinarian, you will be responsible for all costs.

What happens if I have a behavior issue with the foster animal during the stray hold period?

As a Stray to Foster caregiver, you are taking home an animal that we have little to no history on. If you experience any behavioral issues that are of concern and impact your desire to keep the animal, bring the animal back to GCAS.

For additional foster resources, training tips, policies and procedures scan the QR code below for full access to the foster handbook.

Foster Handbook

<https://tinyurl.com/gcasfoster>

