



Wait 48 & StrayCare Programs

San Diego Humane Society offers programs that help community members like you care for stray pets and reunite them with their owners!

BENEFITS:

- Better chance of reuniting a pet with their family when they remain in their community
- Less stress for the animal
- Reduces barriers that can prevent owners from finding their lost pet at a shelter (transportation, reclaim fees, etc.)
- Keeps critically needed space available in the shelter

Wait 48

Through the Wait 48 program, you can keep a lost pet in your home for a few days while seeking the pet's owner. In many cases, animals reunite with their families without ever needing to enter a shelter!

How It Works:

If you find a lost pet, you can participate in Wait 48 without bringing the pet to the shelter:

1. Send us a photo of the pet, and we'll publish a found report on our website.
2. You'll receive resources to help you look for the pet's owner, including flyers, websites and tips.
3. If the owner contacts us, we'll work with you to arrange a time to bring the pet to the shelter to reunite them with their family!
4. If you locate the owner, let us know and we'll add their information to our system. If the pet ever gets lost again, we'll know who to contact!
5. If the owner can't be located, you will have a pre-scheduled appointment to bring the pet to the shelter so they can serve their legally required 72-hour stray hold.

StrayCare Program

Through the StrayCare Program, you can keep a lost pet in your home during their legally required 72-hour stray hold period while we seek their owner. If the owner can't be found, you can choose to adopt, continue fostering or return the pet to the shelter at a pre-scheduled appointment time.

Qualifications:

Stray pets are eligible for the program if they are found in San Diego Humane Society's jurisdiction, are medically and behaviorally healthy, and have no microchip.

How It Works:

To participate in the StrayCare Program, your first step will be bringing the pet to the shelter:

1. Bring the pet to San Diego Humane Society so we can give them vaccinations and a microchip.
2. You'll sign an agreement to keep the pet in your home for the stray hold period while we try to locate the owner. We'll provide you with resources to help find the pet's family, too!
3. If the owner contacts us, we'll work with you to arrange a time to bring the pet to the shelter to reunite them with their family.
4. If the owner isn't located during the stray hold period, the pet will return to the shelter for their spay/neuter surgery (if needed) and you can choose to adopt, enroll as an official San Diego Humane Society foster and continue fostering, or leave the animal in our care.