



WISCONSIN STRAY ANIMAL HOLDING TIME HAS CHANGED – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Effective March 3, 2016, all stray animals entering an animal control facility or humane society with an animal control contract will have a **FIVE (5) day stray hold period, 4 days plus the day of confiscation**, which was reduced from EIGHT (8) days, 7 days plus the day of confiscation.

This means that on day SIX (6) in custody, animals who have not been reclaimed may be adopted out or transferred to another facility for adoption. In rare instances when an animal is not able to be placed due to an untreatable health condition or unsafe behavior the animal may be euthanized, but not until after the animal has been held EIGHT (8) full days.

If you have lost your pet please IMMEDIATELY do the following:

1. **DO NOT WAIT to report your pet lost!** Do not wait for it to come home on its own. Report it immediately to your local animal control and immediate neighbors.
2. **Come in to MADACC in person each day to look for your pet.** You can use our website to peruse photos of found animals, but it is important that you show up to look.
3. **If you need more time to reclaim your animal, please discuss this matter with us in person or via phone.** We can work through transportation issues and other roadblocks to reclaim if you contact us and speak with us.
4. **Utilize the internet to post photos of your lost pet and your contact information**, especially using social media sites.
5. **Make flyers and post them in your neighborhood.** You can go to our website under LOST AND FOUND for free online templates to use.
6. **If you live near the border of a city or county that might use another animal control facility or have multiple holding facilities, please contact that other facility (or facilities)** as well in the event that your pet has crossed a geographical boundary or is not being held at the facility closest to you.
7. **Cats and dogs are brought into animal control facilities EVERY DAY! Many people do not look for their cats and only 5% are returned to their owners from a shelter! If you do not see your cat for 24 hours, do not assume the worst and not look for your kitty.** Please come in and check with your animal control. There are many beloved cats that end up in new homes simply because their owners assume their animal has perished.

As the owner of a companion animal it is imperative that you take the following steps IMMEDIATELY in order to prepare yourself and your animal in the event that they ever go missing:

1. If you have never lost your pet, you still should familiarize yourself with who to contact if your pet goes missing. Contact your local city, town or village hall and ask who has the animal control

contract for your area. Visit that facility to ensure you know where it is and how to reach the facility should your animal go missing. Find out the hours, ask about the reclaim procedure, costs and requirements so that you will know what to do when the time comes. Do not wait until you are in a panic if your animal has gone missing.

2. Make sure your animal has visible and current ID tags on. Yes, even for cats! If someone finds your pet, they will likely bring it home rather than to an animal control if your animal is wearing ID. Include cell phone numbers and email addresses. State Law requires all dogs to be wearing a current license tag, and even that tag can help quickly reunite you and your dog.
3. Micro-chipping can be very important as well, but the chips are only as good as the information they contain. If you move, change phone numbers or rehome an animal, that information will not be current and your animal may not make it back to you. Also, please make sure when you get your animal chipped that the chip is REGISTERED! Many times it can be the owner's responsibility to contact a chip company and give the information. If this is not done, the chip will lead nowhere and we cannot reunite you with your animal. ID tags are the #1 way to get an animal back home, microchips are #2.

If you have FOUND a lost pet, immediately do the following:

1. See if the animal has ID, and call the owner. If you want to have an animal scanned for a microchip, most veterinarians will do this at no cost, or you can bring the animal to an animal control facility or humane society for assistance.
2. Call your local animal control. Many times a lost report has been taken and we can connect you with the owner without bringing the animal in.
3. If you cannot reunite the animal with the owner please bring it into the humane society or animal control facility that is responsible for your area. While we know people are afraid of what will happen to an animal, it is a state law for all strays to be brought to the animal control contractor or facility for your area. Most will let you adopt the animal at the end of the stray hold once it has been vetted and sterilized if you want to keep the animal. Not doing so would allow the owner to legally reclaim the animal from you later as you did not follow proper legal procedures.

Contact your local animal control facility or humane society for more information or with questions about this change in stray hold. If you live in Milwaukee County, all stray animals are held at MADACC and we can be reached at 414-649-8640.