

Pet Resource Guide



www.cabq.gov/pets





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Rehoming Your Pet

We understand that circumstances in life can sometimes mean that you may find yourself in need of finding a new home for your pet or the pet of a loved one. If you're in this situation, we'd like to encourage you to try and re-home your pet directly rather than bringing them to the shelter. This is often a much more calming and comforting way for ownership to change hands for the pet, and means that you are able to be fully involved in the process.

We're here to help and can recommend some key tips and tricks to make the process go quite smoothly. If however, you feel you've exhausted all your options, know that you can contact us to discuss your choices.



Contact 311 or Call 505-768-2000



AWDPetResources@cabq.gov

Tips for Writing a Pet Description

One of the key components of rehoming a pet is sharing information with potential new families to help find a good match. It's tempting when writing these descriptions to share the details of why you are needing to find a new home for the pet, but remember that many people skim when reading long paragraphs and may find it more engaging to read about what to expect when living with this pet, what they enjoy, and the things that make them happy.

We recommend always being honest and forthcoming about your pet, but keeping the pet description largely positive is also important to encouraging interest.

Again, when we say keep it positive, we don't mean hiding the truth. But keep in mind that we all have different expectations of life with pets. A dog who chases or doesn't get along with cats may make a perfect pet for someone who is looking for a companion for their other dogs or a person with a cat allergy.

Some examples of keeping your language positive and matchmaking focused:

INSTEAD OF:

- Needs a lot of exercise
- Needs too much attention
- Isn't good with my kids

- Hates other animals



TRY THIS:

- Will make a great running partner
- Loves people / being by your side
- Needs the peace of a home without children

- Would prefer not to share a home with other pets / Would like to be your one-and-only

You can also use templates to help craft a pet description or bio for you pet if you need more guidance. Most prospective families want to know a bit about what to expect and what life will look like with this animal, so start there!

BIO-WRITING ROADMAPS

• for fast and effective pet bios •

The 'roadmap' approach makes writing accurate, engaging bios easier when time and resources are limited! Try these tailored sets, or mix n' match.

**FAST AND
SIMPLE**

MEET _____ !
HER/HIS FAVORITE THING IS _____
BUT HE'S/SHE'S NOT AS INTO _____
HE/SHE NEEDS _____
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW ABOUT
_____ IS _____

HELLO, I'M _____ !

MY FAVORITE THINGS ARE _____ & _____

BUT NO _____ FOR ME, THANKS

IF I WAS A DESSERT, I'D BE _____

MY PERFECT DAY IS _____

IF YOU LIKE _____ WE'D BE A GREAT TEAM!

**A LITTLE MORE
PLAYFUL**

HEARTS  SPEAK FIND MORE TIPS, TRICKS, AND INSPIRATION AT
HEARTSSPEAK.ORG

For more resources on writing pet descriptions, including fill-in-the-blank tools or other language suggestions, visit heartsspeak.org/edu and search "bio writing."

Other Tips for Matchmaking Success

A few other tricks to successful rehoming:

- Don't rule out potential new homes before you learn more. It can be tempting to, but a lot of restrictions on what you think is the perfect new home for the pet may not matter to a potential new home. For instance "must have fenced yard" or "must work less than 40 hours per week." Consider that "perfect" may look different than you imagine. Someone without a fenced yard who walks the dog on a leash is arguably giving them more attention and exercise than letting them out the door into the yard. Someone who works 60 hours a week but splits their time between home and work, or hires a petsitter, is still giving excellent attention
- Check your email regularly and use an email address you can view frequently. Rehoming websites will use that email to get in touch with you and allow potential new homes to ask questions, etc.

Tips for Great Photos

In addition to the pet description, photos are really important to catching the attention of someone who might want to adopt your pet. Photos (and video clips!) are a great way for the potential new caretaker to connect with the pet. Try for about 4 different images to show variety!

Here are some quick tips for taking better cell phone photos at home:



Get on Their Level + Fill Frame

Rather than stand and take a photo of a pet from above, crouch down so you're taking the photo more at eye level with them. Also try and be sure they are taking up most of the photo, rather than appearing as a small part of a larger photo. This helps more accurately show size and connect with their eyes.



Avoid Natural Light + Avoid Harsh Sun

Oftentimes people think that a clear, sunny day is perfect for pictures -- but it's actually the opposite! Sunny days make for harsh shadows and squinting, which even affects pets! Look for a shady spot or a cloudy day and your photos will be gorgeous. Using natural light like this is preferable to florescent overhead lights.(even when indoors, just try to position things so the window is behind you, the photographer).



Pay Attention to Background

To maximize connection and impact, try to take a photo without much clutter or distraction in the background -- we want the pet to be the star!



Shoot for Eye Contact

Use a funny noise, a treat, or toy --- held right over the lens of your camera -- to get a photo where the pet is looking at you and making eye contact.

Getting the Pet Ready for Rehoming

A healthy pet is easier to rehome so try and be sure that your pet is up to date on vaccines. If possible, reach out to your vet and ask for copies of your veterinary records to pass along to the new owners.

If your pet is not spayed/neutered, it's important to have that done before they are rehomed. You can see the "Medical Resources" section of this guide for more information on how and where to find low-cost options. Please Note: The City of Albuquerque's H.E.A.R.T. Ordinance requires pets to be spayed or neutered, unless an intact permit is acquired.

Getting the Word Out

There are a few options for posting your pet on websites that specialize in rehoming and offer specific platforms for simple, safe and free ways of transferring ownership to a new owner.

Rehome by adoptapet.com

To list your pet on this site, visit rehome.adoptapet.com and create a profile. Make sure you use the full website address to be able to post for free. Not only does this site get seen by thousands of potential pet parents in your area, it also allows you to review applications for your pet and set up meetings with potential new families.

Rescue Me!

Rescue Me is a site that can help reach community members within 2 hours of you sharing your pets information. They email adopters in your area based on the breed of your pet and interest on their mailing list. rescueme.org

Using Social Media

Once you post your pet on a rehoming site, you can then share the link to their profile on social media to help circulate it and get more eyes on them.

When you post on any social network to share your pet, try these quick tips for success:

- Tell a story. Sometimes a heartfelt story about your pet and your search for a safe place for them to land can help people understand your choice to rehome and help get the post shared to other potential adopters.
- Be descriptive. Use the same advice as you did when writing your pet description - be positive, share important basics (weight/size, age, preferences, etc).
- Choose your cutest / favorite photo. Grab attention and help show off their best side! Make sure it's a recent photo and accurately represents them
- Include your contact info or ask people to DM you. If there's a deadline for seeking the new home or other critical info share that too.

Facebook:

On Facebook you can not only share a link to Rehome, you can also seek out facebook groups or local pet groups in your area to post about your pet. If you're a member of local community groups (church, social clubs, community service orgs) you can ask the admin of the group if you're allowed to post there as well.

Twitter or Instagram:

If you're a regular user of either of these platforms, then definitely share your pet there and include hashtags like #rehome #adoptadog #adoptacat #petadoption as well as hashtags for your local area or neighborhood to make sure you're zeroing in on the right audience.

Nextdoor:

Nextdoor is a neighborhood or community based social network so really helps ensure you're posting to folks nearby.

Other Networks & Community Connections

Consider other off-line connections you have to help get the word out. You never know who might be looking for a pet!

- Friends
- Family members
- Neighbors
- Co-workers
- Community contacts
 - School
 - Church, Synagogue, House of worship
 - Membership groups
 - Community-based organizations

You can also make flyers -- using the same basic information you used in your online pet description and a few great photos -- and post them in different locations around your community:

- Veterinarian
- Pet supply store
- Feed Store
- Coffee Shop
- Restaurants / Diners
- Work, school or other community bulletin boards

Recommended Resources

Facebook Groups:

Albuquerque Pet Connection

Problem Solving and Solution Building

We know it's not an easy decision to rehome your pet. And it's often a decision that a lot of thought has gone into. However, if you find yourself confronting one specific issue or another, consider the solution board below.

Rehoming Solutions

ISSUE

- "I got a new job and there's no time for my pet"
- "I can't afford my pet any longer because of extenuating circumstances." (Ex: job loss)
- "My pet has health issues which I can't afford to manage."
- "A sickness/injury is significantly preventing me from taking care of my dog"
- "My pet is not getting along with the other pets in the home / showing signs of agitation."
- "My pet has separation anxiety, or his energy is a mismatch for us"

POTENTIAL SOLUTION

- Have you considered a doggy day-care or a dog walker?
- Have you asked someone you already know if they can take care of the dog until you resituate yourself?
- Have you checked out low-cost options in your area? (See Medical Resources in this guide.)
- If your situation is temporary, are there family or friends to help and take care of your pet while you're able to recover.
- If they previously got along with other pets or just recently began to change behavior, consider taking them to a vet first to see if it might be caused by feeling unwell.
- Are there things you could change about their exercise routine or mental stimulation? A bored pet can sometimes be destructive but activity can reduce this.

Meet & Greet: Interviewing Potential Adopters

You want to find the best possible match for your pet, so the first step is transparency. Share with the future family any medical information, behavior information (to the best of your knowledge), the pet's personality and lifestyle in your home, and tendencies.

From there, some thoughtful questions can help you learn more about the prospective adopter and their family:

- What is a typical day like in your home?
- What qualities are you hoping for in a pet?
- What behaviors would be hard for you to tolerate or difficult to manage in a pet?
- Do you have other pets? Tell me about them
- Are their children in your family? If very young, will they be supervised with the new pet?
- What questions do you have for me about our life with the pet?

If it's an option for you, consider doing a trial sleepover where the pet goes to stay and you check back in. If you're able to take the pet back temporarily, let the new adopters know that you'd like that option if things do not work out.





Medical Resources

Please note this guide does not serve as an endorsement or promotion of any specific organizations and simply reflects currently available resources.

Low-Cost Vaccines / Veterinary Services

AWDs Preventative Pet Care Clinic

www.cabq.gov/pets/community-outreach-programs/spay-neuter/spay-and-neuter

Veterinary Clinic for free or low cost spay/neuter and vaccines

Use the above link to view requirements and schedule an appointment or call 311 for more information

Animal Humane New Mexico

email: ClinicInfo@AnimalHumaneNM.org

Veterinary Clinic for free or low cost spay/neuter and vaccines

Use the above link to view requirements and schedule an appointment

Street Cat Hub

Provides spay/neuter for trap-neuter-release

www.streetcathub.org/tnr

Use the above link to view requirements and schedule an appointment

Financial Assistance / Funding for Medical Resources

National Orgs

Red Rover Relief

redrover.org

Help for urgent care and emergency boarding and a list of other national resources.

Feeding Pets of the Homeless

petsofthehomeless.org

Medical & food assistance for pets of the homeless.

Brown Dog Foundation

browndogfoundation.org

Help with prescription medications

Onyx & Breezy Foundation

onyxandbreezy.org

Assistance for medical care, food, and critical cases

The Humane Society of the U.S. - Pet Support Resources

humanesociety.org

An extensive list of resources, both national and organized by state -- for everything from medical to supplies, and other support.

Waggle

waggle.org

Submit your pet's profile and Waggle donors give to help crowdfund.

For pets with cancer visit

wagglefoundation.org

Frankie's Friends

frankiesfriends.org

Support for emergency and specialty medical care

Shakespeare Animal Fund

shakespeareanimalfund.org

Emergency care, especially COVID-19 related

The Pet Fund

thepetfund.com

The Pet Fund has a grant program that provides assistance for medical issues

Email: info@thepetfund.com

Financial Assistance / Funding for Medical Resources

Local Resources

Pets Find Help

pets.findhelp.com

A national database that can be searched for local and national funding sources.

Los Suenos Community Giving

Outreach including veterinary care

1670 University Blvd. NE Suite C

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

info@lossuenoscommunity.org





Behavior & Training

Please note this guide does not serve as an endorsement or promotion of any specific organizations and simply reflects currently available resources.

National Orgs

[Best Friends - Pet Training Resources](https://resources.bestfriends.org/pet-training)
resources.bestfriends.org/pet-training
Body language, training tips, and enrichment

[ASPCA](https://aspca.org)
aspca.org/pet-care
Dog, cat, equine care tips

[Dr. Sophia Yin Dog Behavior Issues](https://drsophiayin.com/resources/dog_behavior)
drsophiayin.com/resources/dog_behavior
Videos and articles to better understand dog behavior problems or questions

[The Jackson Galaxy Project](https://thejacksongalaxyproject.org/Resources/Cat-Behavior-Resources)
thejacksongalaxyproject.org/Resources/Cat-Behavior-Resources
Cat Behavior resource library

Local Resources + Trainers

Albuquerque Animal Welfare Behavior
Department

Call 311 and ask for behavior help

Good Pup Online Training

shelter.goodpup.com/AAW

Dog Training over video chat

First week free if using link above

CAT BEHAVIOR RESOURCES

Molly DeVoss, CFTBS, CCBC, FFCT, CRM

www.CatBehaviorSolutions.org

molly@catbehaviorsolutions.org

This website has an expansive library of free
resources about cat behavior and care

Animal Humane New Mexico Behavior
Helpline

[animalhumanenm.org/outreach/resources/
behavior-help-line/](http://animalhumanenm.org/outreach/resources/behavior-help-line/)





Pet Supply Resources

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Food + Supplies

ANIMAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The Animal Welfare Department has food available for those who are in need.

Los Suenos Community Giving

Outreach-Foodbank

1670 University Blvd. NE Suite C
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
info@lossuenoscommunity.org



Fencing + Dog Houses + Straw / Bedding

Albuquerque Animal Welfare

Dog Houses and straw are given out at various times of the year through a lottery system

Contact 311 or go to our website for more information.





Hospice, Grief Support, and End of Life Services

Please note this guide does not serve as an endorsement or promotion of any specific organizations and simply reflects currently available resources.

National Resources

Pet Peace of Mind

petpeaceofmind.org

This organization helps hospice and seriously ill patients keep their pets
(503) 363-0499

The Pet Loss Support Page

www.pet-loss.net

Hotlines and resources for dealing with grief

ASPCA -Resources for End of Life Care

aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/end-life-care

Coping with end of life decision-making and pet hospice

Best Friends - Pet Loss & Grief Resources

hresources.bestfriends.org/article/pet-loss-and-grief-resources

Links to different resources around the web

The Association of Pet Loss and Bereavement

aplb.org

Extensive collection of resources

International Association for Animal Hospice and Palliative Care

iaahpc.org

A community of pet lovers dedicated to a respectful and dignified final journey for beloved pets

Local Resources

Animal Humane New Mexico

animalhumanenm.org/Peaceful-paws

Help with euthanasia and cremation services





Domestic Violence Assistance & Resources

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National Resources

Red Rover - Domestic Violence Safe Escape Grants

redrover.org/relief/dv-safe-escape-grants

Helps provide funding primarily for temporary boarding to allow families to escape domestic violence with their pets.

Ahimsa House - National Directory ahimsahouse.org/get-help/directory

A state-by-state list of programs to help house and care of pets while escaping domestic violence situations. Plus links to other programs throughout the U.S.

Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims

www.saaavprogram.org

Offering a network of sheltering and grant-based resources to help victims of violence

Red Rover - Safe Place for Pets safeplaceforpets.org

A directory of family violence shelters that have resources for pets

Sheltering Animals & Families

Together

saftprogram.org/sheltering-animals-and-families-together-2

The SAF-T Program® works directly with domestic violence shelters to enable more domestic violence victims to leave abusive households without leaving their pets behind and at risk.

Local Resources

Animal Protection New Mexico Care Program

Provides foster care for pets of those escaping domestic violence





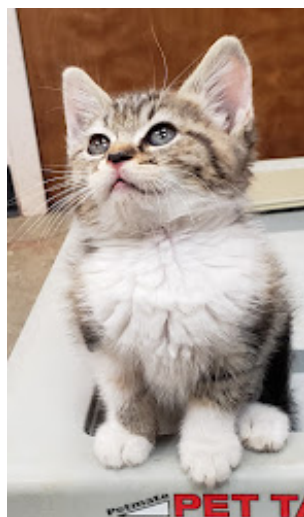
Community Cats + Kittens

Community cats, sometimes called free-roaming or feral cats, are cats who have either never had any contact with people or their contact with people has diminished over time. They are different than stray or indoor-outdoor pet cats (cats who are owned and cared for but are either separated from their families or have a home but spend time outside).

For community cats, their home is outdoors and in the community. Typically these cats aren't likely to ever enjoy transitioning into a house and traditional pet lifestyle.

Community cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and then returned to their community through a process called Trap Neuter Return or "TNR". You can often recognize those that have gone through this process by an "ear tip" - a missing tip of either ear. It's a universal sign that this cat has been spayed or neutered.

Why spay and neuter community cats? Without this measure of population control, cats living in the community can have too many litters of kittens, leading to poor quality of life and possible overpopulation issues. TNR helps community cats by relieving them of the stresses of mating and breeding, and protecting them from diseases.



What to Do When You Find a Community Cat

If you find a community cat (remember, not a friendly stray --- For info on what to do if you find a friendly stray cat see the "Lost and Found" section of this guide), the first thing to do is look to see if the cat already has an eartip. The most common type of eartip is a flat quarter-inch taken from the top of the left ear, which is painlessly performed surgically while the cat is sedated for spay/neuter. Other TNR programs may use ear notches or use the right ear instead of the left. Ear-tipped cats have already been sterilized and rabies vaccinated, and can be left where they are found. If the cat is friendly-attach a paper collar(there is a printable version at the end of this document) and let the cat go. If the cat has an owner, they can let you know by contacting you.

If no eartip is present, there is a possibility that this animal has not been fixed. Trapped cats can be brought to either Albuquerque Animal Welfare location Monday-Sunday 7:30-6:00. If possible, we would like to release the cat back where you found it after spay/neuter. We only release healthy cats.

DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?	My Name: _____	
	Phone Number: _____	
	Today's Date: _____ If you're their caretaker, <input type="checkbox"/> Call <input type="checkbox"/> Text and let me know!	

DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?	My Name: _____	
	Phone Number: _____	
	Today's Date: _____ If you're their caretaker, <input type="checkbox"/> Call <input type="checkbox"/> Text and let me know!	

DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?	My Name: _____	
	Phone Number: _____	
	Today's Date: _____ If you're their caretaker, <input type="checkbox"/> Call <input type="checkbox"/> Text and let me know!	

DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?	My Name: _____	
	Phone Number: _____	
	Today's Date: _____ If you're their caretaker, <input type="checkbox"/> Call <input type="checkbox"/> Text and let me know!	

When To Use A Paper Collar

When an unfamiliar, friendly cat stops by your house or shows up in your colony, you can use this a temporary collar to find out if it has an owner or another caretaker. This helps to ensure you don't take a lost or wandering outdoor cat to a shelter or clinic who already has a loving home.

How To Use A Paper Collar

1. Print out this page and cut out a collar. (You might need two cut out two for a bigger cat.)
2. Fill in your information and choose whether you'd prefer to be called or texted.
3. Tape the collar loosely around the cat's neck (or two collars end to end for a larger cat, overlapping as needed) with the writing facing out. You should be able to comfortably fit two fingers underneath it to ensure it's not too tight.
4. Release the cat and give a reasonable amount of time for the owner to contact you. If the cat returns and you haven't received any response, consider attaching a new collar.



THE COMMUNITY CATS PODCAST

For more resources, tips and advice, or to learn how to turn your passion for cats into action, visit...

www.communitycatspodcast.com

...or search wherever you listen to podcasts.

Other Local Resources

Street Cat Hub

www.streetcathub.org

Offers Trap/neuter/release services to
City of Albuquerque residents



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND KITTENS

Finding kittens can be an exciting yet delicate adventure. If you've discovered a litter of kittens, it's crucial first to assess their health and safety. Look for signs of the mother cat nearby, as she might be out hunting and could return shortly.

WAIT AND OBSERVE FROM A DISTANCE FOR AN HOUR OR TWO

If possible, observe the sight for several hours to be sure that the kittens are truly abandoned. Each situation is different. A good way to see if mom is around is to circle the nest with flour. If mom comes back, she will leave cat prints in the flour. It is best to leave kittens where they are, with their mom until they are at least 7 weeks old.

If kittens are truly abandoned, or in danger, you, as the rescuer can help by becoming a foster parent! The Animal Welfare Department will supply all food and vaccines needed. All you have to do is supply a safe place and love. If you are interested in becoming a foster, email awdfoster@cabq.gov. If you are unsure about what to do with the tiny kittens, please email our kitten contact at jrmf@swcp.com.

Those who cannot foster can call 311 to make an appointment to bring the kittens into the shelter. If the kittens are weak, or have not eaten in 3 hours, the situation is an emergency. Please head to the Eastside shelter location Intake entrance.

Tips For Judging a Kitten's Age

Under One week: Eyes shut, ears flat to head, skin looks pinkish. Part of the umbilical cord may still be attached.

1 week-10 days: Eyes beginning to open, ears still flat. A kitten this age is smaller than your hand.

3 weeks: Eyes are fully open, ears are erect, and teeth are visible. Kittens this age are just starting to walk and will be very wobbly.

4-5 weeks: Eyes have changed from blue to another color and/or kittens have begun to pounce and leap. Will begin to eat gruel or canned food.

7 weeks: Best time to bring to the shelter or find homes.



For More Information:

The Kitten Lady

www.kittenlady.org

Tons of resources on kitten care and what to do if you find kittens in the wild.

National Kitten Coalition

kittencoalition.org

Resources and education on kitten care and increasing kitten survival rates.

Learn More / National Resources

Alley Cat Allies

www.alleycat.org/our-work/feral-friends-network

Resources for becoming more involved in community cat management or understanding more about community cats.

Best Friends - Community Cat Resources

bestfriends.org/advocacy/protecting-community-cats

Find a TNR program near you and learn more

ASPCA - Understanding Community Cats

www.aspca.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/closer-look-community-cats





Pet-Friendly Housing

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National Resources

My Pit Bull is Family

www.mypitbullisfamily.org/housing

The nation's largest housing database for nondiscriminatory pet policies

People with Pets

peoplewithpets.com

A searchable database for locating pet-friendly housing options.

Petfinder - Steps to Finding Pet Friendly Housing

www.petfinder.com/dogs/living-with-your-dog/finding-pet-friendly-housing

Tips and tricks for finding a place that welcomes you and your pet





Military Deployment Options & Assistance

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National Resources

Dogs on Deployment

www.dogsondeployment.org

Provide assistance for pets of those currently serving, including boarding/fostering of pets for those deployed.

PACT for Animals

pactforanimals.org

Foster homes for pets of deployed service members.

911 Foster Pets

911fosterpets.com

Emergency fostering and networking to find emergency fosters in your neighborhood.

Guardian Angel's For Soldiers' Pets

gafsp.org

Network of fosters and other programs to support the pets of deployed soldiers.



Support for Other Species of Pets

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Wildlife Resources

Wildlife Rescue New Mexico
wildliferescuenm.org
Intakes Monday-Sunday 10am-1:00pm
505-344-2500
Call if help is needed after clinic hours



Farm Animal Resources

Misfits of Oz Farm Sanctuary-Pigs
www.misfitsofoz.org/rehoming-resources
Resources for Rehoming Pigs
Edgewood, NM



Equine Resources

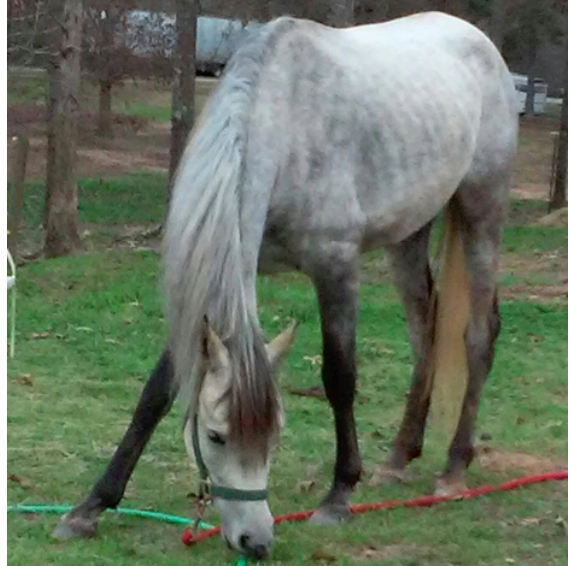
New Mexico Horse Rescue

www.wncr.org

Horse Rehabilitation and Rescue

505-286-

Edgewood, NM



Bird Resources

Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue

www.birdsofafeathernm.org

505-980-6166 for surrender appointments



Rabbit Resources

NEW MEXICO HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

newmexicohrs.org

New Mexico House Rabbit Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to help rabbits who need homes in New Mexico, with a special focus on the Albuquerque area. We are an official chapter of House Rabbit Society.

NEVER RELEASE A RABBIT INTO THE WILD. THEY WILL NOT SURVIVE AND CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE ECOSYSTEM. CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL IF YOU NEED TO REHOME YOUR PET.



Reptile Resources

New Mexico Herpetological Society

www.nmherpsociety.org

Information on reptiles and amphibians found in New Mexico

PLEASE NOTE: NEVER RELEASE A REPTILE OR AMPHIBIAN INTO THE WILD. THIS CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE ECOSYSTEM. ALWAYS CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL IF YOU NEED TO REHOME YOUR PET.





Lost & Found Animals

Whether you've lost your pet or have found a stray pet, we have some important tips for you to follow -- and the advice is actually very similar for both scenarios! The best chances for reunification between owners and lost pets happens close to home, so by following this advice for either case we hope to increase the chances that a pet and its family will find one another quickly.

If You've Found a Pet

Often times, one of two instincts kicks in when someone finds a pet -- leave it and hope it finds its way home or pick it up and take it the shelter. But there's a third and critical way to handle this that could mean helping reunite that pet with its family much more successfully.

If possible, we're going to ask that you look for the owners in your area and possibly even foster that animal for the short term. This leaves space in the sheltering system for pets in emergency situations and critical need, but more importantly often means that the lost pet can find its home -- whereas once at the shelter those chances of reunifications start to go down.

We don't encourage this because we don't want to help animals anymore -- quite the opposite! We want to try and get as many pets back into the loving arms of their families and over time animal shelters across the country have realized this happens better in the community. However, we're still here if you need us!

Step One: Walk Around the Neighborhood

Simply by walking around your neighborhood, you may run into someone who is searching for their pet. Or, you may pass other neighbors or community members (delivery drivers, postal workers, landscapers, pool technicians, etc often know the pets in the homes on your street!) who know the pet and can help identify where they live. In some cases, the lost pet may even lead you back to their home.

Step Two: Check for a Microchip

A microchip is small (grain of rice-sized) tag implanted in the pet's skin (typically between the shoulder blades) that links to the owner's information when scanned with a special microchip scanner. Call local vet offices or contact the shelter to see if they can scan the pet for one! See below for information .

We have placed microchip scanners in Fire Stations and APD Substations and businesses around Albuquerque. For a full list visit:

www.cabq.gov/pets/adoptions/lost-found-pets

Step Three: Notify Local Shelters

[Albuquerque Animal Welfare](#)

Bernalillo County Animal Services

www.bernco.gov/animal-care-services/lost-found-animals

Step Four: Get the Word Out

Social media may be a way to capture attention of not just the owner but friends, family members or community members who may recognize the pet. Be sure to post a photo or two (or even a video clip) with the information about where the pet was found, anything notable about their collar or markings, as well as your contact information and where the pet is currently being housed.

[Albuquerque Pet Connection \(Facebook Group\)](#)

[Nextdoor.com](#)

You can also make and distribute flyers around the community. Make sure the photo is large and easily seen, include where he/she was found, and basic contact information for yourself. Start by posting these around your neighborhood, then begin to branch out to nearby locations, with a special focus on essential needs -- gas stations, grocery stores, bodegas or convenience stores, parks, community centers, churches / synagogues / houses of worship.

A good place to create a flyer is [PetFBI.org](#)

Or [24 Pet Connect](#)

Step Five: Upload Pet to Lost/Found Sites

PetCoLove is an app and website that uses facial recognition technology to help reunite pets with owners, faster. Click on "Found Pet" on their site or app and add a photo of the found animal along with details about where he/she was found. Lost animals who look like the pet will show up and may help lead you to the lost animal.

petcolove.org/lost

[24Petconnect](#)

[Pawboost](#)

If You've Lost a Pet

Similar to the process for finding a pet, we're going to instruct you to follow a few key steps to try and find your pet faster. Below is a link to a flyer to figure out what to do when:

<https://www.cabq.gov/pets/documents/pethub-findingyourlostpetflyer.pdf>

Immediately do a search of the neighborhood and surrounding areas to see if you can locate or spot the pet. If the pet seems to be running away every time you get close, try to go against your instincts and rather than chase, see if you can make a game of you running in the opposite direction. Sometimes this can cause the pet (especially dogs) to decide to engage and chase you instead!

As you search, alert neighbors or community members you encounter so they can keep an eye out for the missing pet.

Call local shelters, friends, and family who can help or get the word out, and pitch in to find the missing pet. Even after the initial few hours, remember to check in with the shelter daily.

Take to social media to mobilize your community of friends and followers. Post to lost and found groups and other community-related groups
Albuquerque Pet Connection Facebook Group:

Use traditional methods of getting attention like putting out flyers or continuing to do walk-throughs of the neighborhood with information. Post these in your neighborhood and then in key community locations, working outward from your home in the most-likely pattern. Don't give up and don't lose hope!

To create a flyer go to <https://PetFBI.org/flyer.html#> or 24 Petconnect

Preventative Measures

There are a few things you can do to both prevent your pet from becoming lost as well as being prepared if that should happen. Let's dive in:

- Have your pet wear a collar and up-to-date tags at all times. Even if microchipped this is the fastest way for them to get home when found. You can get a free ID tag at our East and Westside Shelters and at Lucky Paws in Coronado Mall
- Get your pet microchipped. Your pet can be microchipped at either one of our shelter locations:
Eastside-8920 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
Westside-11800 Sunset Gardens SW, Albuquerque, NM 87121
- Keep tags on your pet. Having a visual tag is an insurance policy and another way to ensure your pet gets home. You can pick up a free ID tag at our shelter locations.
- If your pet is already microchipped, check to make sure it's properly registered and your contact information is up to date. Visit:
<https://www.foundanimals.org/microchip-registry/owners/>
- Upload their photo to PetCo Love database in the event they are lost.
<https://petcolove.org/lost/>
- Keep them safe when you're not home by bringing them inside, using a crate, or whatever method of containment works best for you and the pet.
- Keep them safe when out and about by leashing dogs when out on walks, or by simply leaving pets home if the occasion calls for it.

Thank you!

Quick Reference Contact Sheet



Eastside: 8920 Lomas NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
Westside: 11800 Sunset Gardens SW, Albuquerque, NM 87121
Lucky Paws Adoption Center-Coronado Mall



311



AWDPetResources@cabq.gov



www.cabq.gov/pets

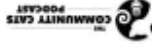


DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?

My Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Today's Date: _____ Call Text and let me know!

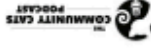


DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?

My Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Today's Date: _____ Call Text and let me know!

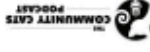


DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?

My Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Today's Date: _____ Call Text and let me know!



DOES THIS CAT HAVE A HOME?

My Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Today's Date: _____ Call Text and let me know!



When To Use A Paper Collar

When an unfamiliar, friendly cat stops by your house or shows up in your colony, you can use this a temporary collar to find out if it has an owner or another caretaker. This helps to ensure you don't take a lost or wandering outdoor cat to a shelter or clinic who already has a loving home.

How To Use A Paper Collar

1. Print out this page and cut out a collar. (You might need two cut out two for a bigger cat.)
2. Fill in your information and choose whether you'd prefer to be called or texted.
3. Tape the collar loosely around the cat's neck (or two collars end to end for a larger cat, overlapping as needed) with the writing facing out. You should be able to comfortably fit two fingers underneath it to ensure it's not too tight.
4. Release the cat and give a reasonable amount of time for the owner to contact you. If the cat returns and you haven't received any response, consider attaching a new collar.



For more resources, tips and advice, or to learn how to turn your passion for cats into action, visit...

www.communitycatspodcast.com

...or search wherever you listen to podcasts.

Acknowledgements



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www.bestfriends.org