



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release: January 28, 2021

### If you found a stray dog, call the Humane Society of Central Texas for help instead of bringing the animal to the Waco Animal Shelter

**Contact:**

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*Community encouraged to help stray dogs by finding their owners instead of surrendering them to the shelter.*

**Waco, Texas – (Jan 28, 2021)** – Have you ever wondered what to do if you find a stray dog with no collar and tags? Most stray dogs are found within close proximity to their homes, so bringing them to the animal shelter should be a last resort. Instead, knock on doors, ask nearby residents, mail carriers, and delivery drivers if they know where the dog belongs, and if you can't find the owner nearby, here is the #1 most important thing you can do: Take a photo of the dog and post it on the Facebook page Central Texas Lost and Found Pets (@CTLAFP) with location information and a brief description of the dog.

If you can safely catch the dog and you have a little time, bring the dog to a nearby veterinarian's office, animal shelter or rescue, or fire house to scan for a microchip. Members of the CTLAFP Facebook page will often offer to scan the chip for you at your location after you post! If there's a chip or the owner is looking online, you can usually find the owner within just a few hours. Until then, whenever possible, keep the dog safe and warm where it cannot escape.

If you need resources to take care of the dog until the owner is found (food, crate, blankets, etc.), contact the Humane Society of Central Texas (254-754-1454) or Waco Pets Alive! (254-300-8575) or log onto [www.wacoanimalguide.com](http://www.wacoanimalguide.com). You can also include in your post on the CTLFP Facebook page what supplies you need, and you will be amazed at how our community will step up to help!

Your willingness to rescue a dog and keep it safe instead of bringing it to the shelter will mean the world to that dog and its owner. And if the owner is never found, you can find the dog a new home, ensuring that it has the best chance at a wonderful life! By doing all of these steps, you are truly acting as a Good Samaritan, and you are a #WacoAnimalHero.

If a stray or owned animal is ever in danger, or if it is sick or injured and not being cared for, and it is not safe or possible for you to personally help, immediately call Animal Control or your local Sherriff's office. Do not hesitate. #SeeSomethingSaySomething. The Waco Animal Shelter is here to serve our community and the animals of McLennan County, but we need the community's help in reuniting lost pets with their owners so we can focus on the most serious situations that come into the shelter every day.

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**About the Humane Society of Central Texas:** As an advocate for the animals at the City of Waco Animal Shelter, the Humane Society of Central Texas provides adoption, rescue and foster opportunities, as well as community education regarding responsible pet ownership. The partnership between HSCTX and the City of Waco Animal Services, along with the support of the community, has resulted in a current average live-exit rate above 90%, giving the Waco Animal Shelter No-Kill status! Our goal is to save each and every healthy and treatable animal that comes into the shelter because we believe that every Waco animal deserves a chance!

***Every Waco Animal Deserves A Chance!***