

Found a stray dog: Shelter dispatch decision tree

Is the dog sick or injured?

- Is the dog laying down unable to get up?
- Is the dog limping or not placing weight on a limb?
- Did you witness the dog hit by car or other injury?

Yes

Ask finder if able to bring to veterinary clinic or dispatch officer for pick-up

No

Ask finder to try to find owner and provide guidance

- Take animal to nearest veterinary clinic or pet store to scan for a microchip
- Walk/drive your neighborhood, talk to people & look for open gates/doors where the dog may have come from
- Put up [found signs](#) around the neighborhood
- Post on neighborhood FB/Nextdoor/Craigslist & look at lost dog posting on these sites as well
- Ask to email, text or upload photo to post on shelter website and file found report at <shelter website>

Yes

Provide finder with resources for pet supplies & capture information need to post on website for adoption

Is the dog scared or scary?

- Does the dog run away on approach?
- Is the dog observed in and out of traffic?
- Has the dog growled, snapped or attempted to bite?
- Has the dog bitten anyone?

Yes

Dispatch officer to location

Ask finder if willing to foster until owner found (including sick/injured dogs after care)?

No

Ask finder to call again and provide direction to bring to shelter (see Shelter Decision flowchart)

Found a stray dog: Shelter dispatch decision tree

Is the dog sick or injured?

- Is the dog laying down unable to get up?
- Is the dog limping or not placing weight on a limb?
- Did you witness the dog hit by car or other injury?

Yes

Ask finder if able to bring to veterinary clinic or dispatch officer for pick-up

No

Ask finder to try to find owner and provide guidance

- Take animal to nearest veterinary clinic or pet store to scan for a microchip
- Walk/drive your neighborhood, talk to people & look for open gates/doors where the dog may have come from
- Put up [found signs](#) around the neighborhood
- Post on neighborhood FB/Nextdoor/Craigslist & look at lost dog posting on these sites as well
- Ask to email, text or upload photo to post on shelter website and file found report at <shelter website>

Is the dog scared or scary?

- Does the dog run away on approach?
- Is the dog observed in and out of traffic?
- Has the dog growled, snapped or attempted to bite?
- Has the dog bitten anyone?

Yes

Dispatch officer to location

Instruct finder to leave dog in place if not in danger

- Notify finder that dog is likely on their way home and if the situation changes, they can return call for update

Ask finder if willing to foster until owner found (including sick/injured dogs after care)?

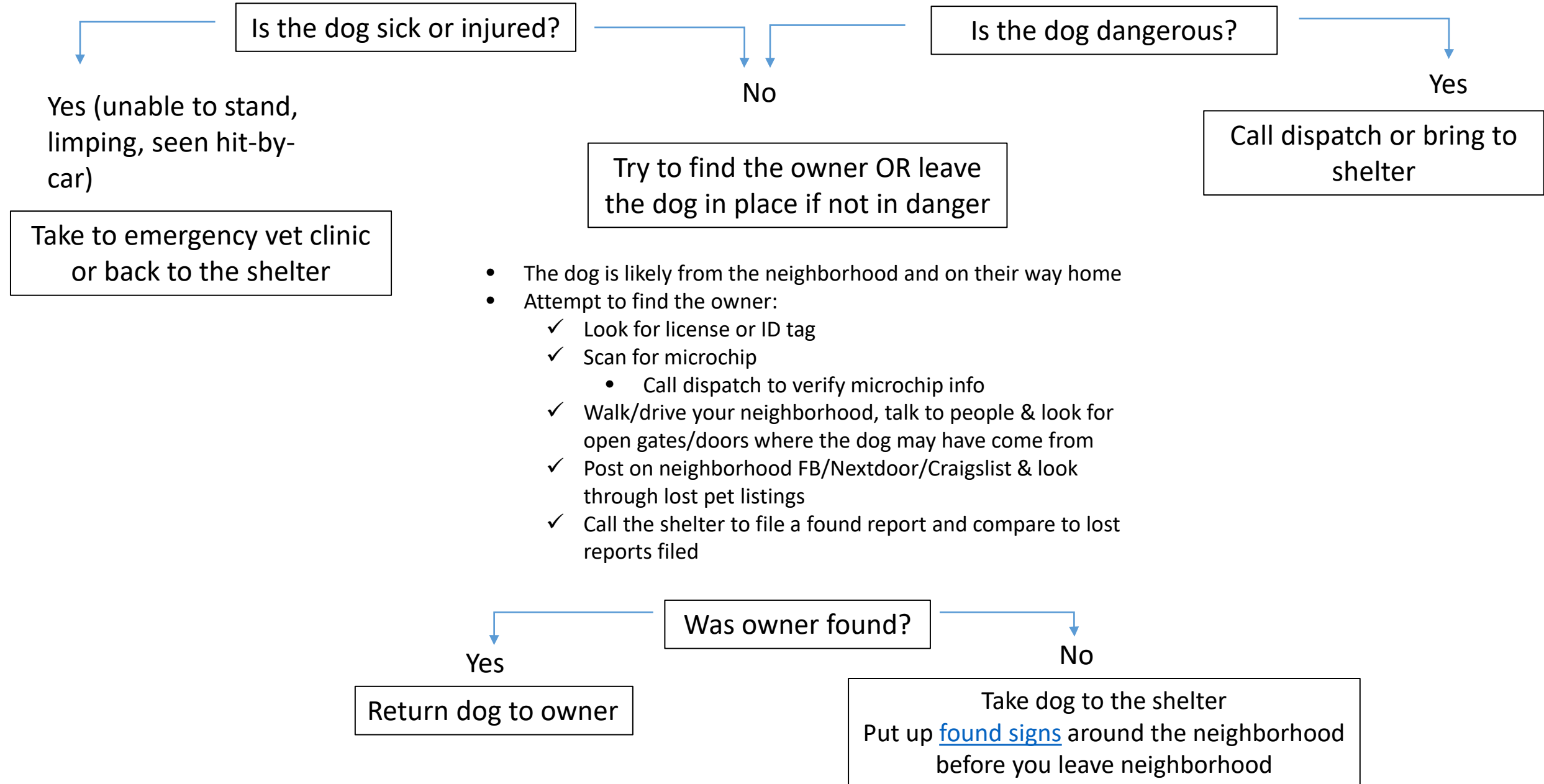
Yes

Provide finder with resources for pet supplies & capture information need to post on website for adoption

No

Ask finder to call again and provide direction to bring to shelter (see Shelter Decision flowchart)

Found a stray dog: ACOs in the field



Found a stray dog: Shelter decisions

Stray dogs coming in through field services

Sick or injured

Scared or scary

Finder unable to keep after initial efforts to find owner

Continue to look for owner

- Dedicate staff to this task
- Search local FB/Nextdoor/Craigslist for lost pets
- Post dog on social media and other Lost & Found sites
- Ensure a **clear** photo and accurate description is on website

Was owner located?

Yes

Remove all barriers to RTO

- Reduce/subsidize/waive redemption fees
- Remove/waive S/N requirement
- Get the word out about how easy/friendly it is to reclaim your dog
- Make it easy/friendly to reclaim your dog
- Offer at no cost a collar and identification (tag and microchip)
- Offer to deliver pet – ACO, staff, volunteer
- Offer time to comply with rabies vaccine requirement if no vet on staff/available before releasing animal
- Warning instead of citation for first time offense

No

Remove all barriers to adoption

- Make available for viewing during stray hold with open selection
- Allow outcome as soon as the stray hold ends
- Reduce/subsidize/waive adoption fees
- Implement Adopters Welcome
- Get the word out about how easy/friendly it is to adopt a dog
- Make it easy/friendly to adopt a dog

Found a stray dog: Public messaging

