

Reclaiming a Lost Pet

Was your lost pet brought to LCHS? LCHS makes reuniting lost pets with their owners a top priority. Please call us at (715) 536-3459 as soon as you realize your pet is missing to file a lost report with LCHS. Reports are kept on file for up to 30 days, but we can keep on file longer at the request of the owner.

We also encourage you to contact the local Sheriff's Department to notify them of your lost pet at (715) 536-6272. We recommend contacting as many local shelters, veterinary clinics, and neighbors as possible to help share your missing pet's information. Providing all organizations with updated photos and current information on your pet will increase the chances of being reunited. Lost Dogs of Wisconsin and Lost Cats of Wisconsin are Facebook groups dedicated to reuniting lost pets and should be contacted immediately to help bring awareness to your lost pet.

If your missing pet should be brought to LCHS, you will be required to comply with Wisconsin State Statute #173.23 and the shelter's contract with Lincoln County regarding stray animals. The following requirements will apply when reclaiming your lost pet:

1. Your cat or dog must have a current rabies certificate from the veterinarian. If your cat or dog does not have the rabies vaccination or you cannot locate proof of it, you will need to purchase a rabies vaccine and schedule the appointment for the rabies vaccine to be given by the veterinarian of your choosing. This receipt of payment for the rabies vaccine must be provided to LCHS before the animal can leave our facility. This requirement applies regardless of the age of the animal.
2. A current dog license. If your dog is not licensed, you will be required to purchase a license before the dog can be released. If your dog does not have a current rabies vaccine, you will be required to purchase the license and make arrangements to return the rabies certificate to finalize the license once the rabies vaccine is given by your veterinarian.
3. A driver's license or photo identification.
4. Purchase or verification of an existing identification tag with current contact information.
5. Full payment of any medical expenses. Medical and veterinary expenses for incoming animals with medical issues or injuries will be billed to an owner at the time of reclamation. Severely injured or suffering animals may be euthanized before a stray hold is completed at the discretion of a licensed veterinarian after the animal's condition is evaluated by the veterinarian.

Animals may also be vaccinated against diseases during the stray hold at the shelter and those fees will be billed to the owner at the time of reclamation.

6. Full payment of any reclamation fees. If an animal is reclaimed within 24 hours, the redemption fee may be waived. If the animal has been brought to the shelter more than once in six months, a repeat intake fee of \$50 may be applied for the first 24 hours. The normal fee schedule will apply beginning after the 24-hour window for an animal that is not considered a repeat intake.

Our normal fee schedule is:

Day 1: \$50, although this fee may be waived depending on the circumstances. Requirements 1-5 (listed above) are required in the first 24 hours.

Day 2: After 24 hours, the fee for the animal increases to \$50, in addition to requirements 1-5 (listed above). After the \$50 fee for day 2, each day will increase by \$15.

Day 3: \$50 (day 2) + \$15 fee (day 3) = \$65, in addition to requirements 1-5.

Day 4: \$50 (day 2) + \$30 fee (day 3 and 4) = \$80, in addition to requirements 1-5 (listed above).

Day 5: \$50 (day 2) + \$45 fee (day 3, 4, and 5) = \$95, in addition to requirements 1-5 (listed above).

Day 6: \$50 (day 2) + \$60 fee (day 3, 4, 5, and 6) = \$110, in addition to requirements 1-5 (listed above).

Day 7: \$50 (day 2) + \$75 fee (day 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) = \$125, in addition to requirements 1-5 (listed above). This is the final day of the stray hold where an animal can be reclaimed by the owner. After day 7, the animal is legally the property of LCHS. As of day 8, the animal can legally be adopted to a new owner, transferred to another facility or rescue, or euthanized at the discretion of LCHS.

7. If there is a police order for an animal to remain in our care, the animal will not be relinquished to an owner without permission of the police. Wisconsin Statutes 174 and 951 may be applied, as necessary, regarding any incoming animal.