



# Pet Pal Packet

**Caring for Your New Companion**



# Congratulations

## on Adopting Your New Family Member!

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**This is an exciting time for you and your new companion. The joy, the love, and the companionship you'll share will change the lives of both you and your pet.**

How your pet develops now depends largely on you. All learning is built on previous experience, and this is true of the first four weeks in your home. Taking the time now will help your pet make a smooth transition to his new home.

Tallahassee Animal Services pledges to assist and work with you, our adopters, to help the adoption be successful and strengthen the bond between you and your pet. During your pet's stay at Tallahassee Animal Services, our staff worked to give him the very best start on his new life: medical care, nutrition, manners training and love. We want to continue to assist you, the new guardian, once your animal moves from our home to yours. Just as you will always be there for your pet, Tallahassee Animal Services is always here for you to provide any assistance and information to help your adoption become a lasting success.

This Adoption Folder is a guide created to help ensure a happy and successful relationship with your pet. You will find facts about pet care, resource listings and special offers from our advertisers. Please contact Tallahassee Animal Services anytime you have questions or

concerns about your pet's well being. Our commitment to you will continue long after this special day. As you welcome your companion into your family, we welcome you into ours.

### **ASF Makes a Difference**

The Animal Shelter Foundation funds specialized, lifesaving surgeries for shelter pets in need and purchases the heartworm treatment medication for shelter dogs going through heartworm treatment.

### **Keeping Pets in Happy Homes**

Every family that adopts from Animal Services receives this educational Adoption Folder - a unique resource guide prepared by ASF that provides valuable information on animal care and local animal resources.

**Doggie Manners** is our low cost basic dog training class. The 6 week class helps teach shelter pups - and their owners - how to live happily together in their new homes.

**Shelter Support:** We are proud to support shelter programs like HART (Heartworm Assistance Rehabilitation Training) and UTOPIA (Undergoing Training and Obedience in Prison to Improve Adoptability)

### **We need your support!**

Please help us meet our membership goal by becoming a member at [animalshelterfoundation.org](http://animalshelterfoundation.org) today!



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# Thank You From **Erika**

## **Thank you for choosing to adopt your new companion animal from Tallahassee Animal Services!**

We hope you enjoyed the adoption experience and will share your positive feelings about our organization with the world!

We are committed to supporting a healthy relationship between you and your new pet today and throughout

the future. We pledge to assist and work with you to support the success of your adoption and strengthen the bond between your family and your new pet. During your pet's stay with us, our staff and volunteers worked to give them the very best start on their new life. This is an exciting time for you and your new pet! The joy, love and companionship you will share will change both of your lives.

Our Pet Pal Packet is created to help ensure a happy and successful relationship with your pet. You'll find information about pet care and resource listings.

**With steadfast  
guardians like  
you, together we  
can continue to  
enhance the lives of  
companion animals  
in Tallahassee and  
beyond.**

**- Erika Leckington**

*Director, Tallahassee Animal Services*



When your furry family member  
needs specialty surgery medicine or  
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# Welcoming A Dog into Your Family

**Bringing home a new dog is a fun and exciting experience. Your dog will need some time to become comfortable in his new home and adjust to his role as your family's new companion.**

## What You Need

We're excited that you've decided to adopt. Here are some things you'll want to have on hand: quality dog food; food and water bowls, leash, chew toys and dog bed. You can purchase these items at a variety of pet supply stores. We encourage you to patronize the stores that support ASF and Animal Services.

## Safely Home

The first trip home can be intimidating for your new pet. Respect your dog's fears and drive carefully until he is comfortable. The safest place for your dog to travel within a vehicle is seat belted in the back seat or in a crate. Go directly home, and if you must stop, do not leave your dog unattended in the car. When you get home, leave the leash attached to your dog's collar to facilitate catching him if the need arises.

## House-Training

Set them up for success by taking them outside to potty frequently, especially in the beginning. Assume that your new dog is not house-trained and expect to have some accidents in your home. If your dog happens to be house-trained then you will be pleasantly surprised. The most effective way to manage your dog's elimination habits is to have a consistent eating and eliminating schedule. In addition, take your dog to the same place to eliminate to help your dog understand what you want. Don't forget to reward your dog for going to the bathroom outside. You can use praise and treats!



When you leave your dog at home, make sure he/she has just been outside to the bathroom and has an appropriate chew toy. A small area or crate simulates a den so teaching your dog how to behave in the house alone can be aided through crate training. Dogs typically won't soil this space, because it is their sleeping area. Puppies younger than five months are like babies and cannot be expected to control their bladders and bowels like an adult animal. As a general rule, puppies can control their bladders for 1 hour for every month of age up to 10 months. To expect otherwise is to set yourself up for disappointment.

Using praise and routine are the most efficient ways to house-train your new dog. Punishing a dog by rubbing his nose in the mess or swatting him with a newspaper will only make him afraid of you and avoid ever going to the bathroom in front of you (even outside). If you catch him in the act, simply say "no" and take him outside. When your dog or puppy has an "accident" in the house simply clean it up (but not in front of him). The way you clean the soiled area is critical to ensure the spot does not become a magnet for all of the pets in the household. Avoid using steam cleaners and most commercial carpet cleaners. Use a good enzymatic cleaner, such as Pet Odor Eliminator or Nature's Miracle, available at pet supply stores.



# Crate Training

Dogs love having a place of their very own, and a crate helps satisfy their den instinct inherited from their den dwelling ancestors. Providing a crate for your dog can be a great way to train him and introduce him to his new environment.



## A crate will help you:



### Enjoy

peace of mind, knowing nothing can be soiled or damaged



### House-train

your dog more quickly, establishing a regular routine



### Travel

with your dog without causing distractions for the driver



### Provide

your dog with a secure place where he can retreat when tired, stressed or ill

Training your dog to feel comfortable in his crate must be done slowly and gradually. Start by leaving the door open and occasionally placing a tasty treat inside for him to retrieve. Once your dog is comfortable going in and out for the treat, begin feeding meals in the crate. As your dog becomes accustomed to eating in his crate you can begin closing the door while he is inside, gradually increasing the time the door stays closed. During the training process if your dog whines or cries, do not let him out until he stops. However, if you have adopted a puppy make sure you grant the request for elimination issues and ignore the request if it is purely for attention. Otherwise, your dog will learn that whining is the way to get out of his crate, and he will keep doing it. Some dogs suffer from issues around being left alone; these dogs generally cannot handle crating. It is important to distinguish between a dog that is seeking attention and one that is suffering from separation anxiety. A crate isn't a magical solution to all problems, however when used and introduced properly it can be a wonderful management tool. Another option is to secure your dog in the kitchen using baby gates.



### Destructive

behavior when left alone



### Attention-seeking

behavior that is extreme while the dog is with you



### Escaping

or attempting to without regard to his own physical well-being



### Inappropriate

elimination around the home's entryways

# Basic Training

**The most effective way to train your dog is to begin immediately. Teach your dog the rules of your family when you first arrive home because dogs may need extra time to understand the changes.**

## Independence Training

Bringing home your new dog is exciting, and you may feel compelled to give him all of your attention. Although sometimes difficult for you and your dog, you should establish a sense of independence within the first few days. Devoting time to your new dog is wonderful, just make sure you practice leaving him home alone. A quick trip to the store is a great way to test your dog. Just make sure that you leave your dog either in a crate or a secure place so you aren't surprised when you return home. This short controlled time will give you an idea of how your dog handles being left alone.

## Introduction to Children

Until you are certain that your new dog and children are safe together, make sure that you keep them separate unless supervised. Learning to read a dog's subtle body language when he is around children will be helpful. If there is EVER a moment when you think that your dog is trying to harm your child, separate them immediately. If you have concerns about your dog's behavior but are not seeing signs of aggression, place a leash on your dog and teach him to "sit" when around children. Use treats to reward your dog when he is interacting positively with children.

## Animal Introductions

Introducing your new dog to your existing dog or cat can be a stressful part of adoption. To facilitate building the relationship between animals, make all interactions fun and positive. Expect the transition to take some time and be prepared to go about it gradually. Introduce your new dog to your existing dog outside the home. Making the initial introduction down the street or in a neutral/non-territorial spot. Give your first pet lots of attention to reassure him that he isn't being replaced. Be sure that each animal has his own food and water bowls, toys, and bed to minimize temptations to fight. The primary goal for a dog and cat relationship is to teach your dog to not chase your cat(s), and for them to live in harmony. Some dogs simply will not respond to training not to chase a cat. Start with the dog on a leash until you know for sure that the cat is not in danger. You should be the top ranking animal in your family and you must support the inter-animal ranking decided by your pets. Play it cool. If you are nervous, your pets are more likely to become nervous. Insist on good manners from the beginning. Don't reward any whining, growling or pushy behavior in attempts to gain attention. Never grab or pick up any frightened animal and never separate fighting animals with your hands. Plan short periods of play time, treat time and give attention to each pet separately and together. Serve meals at the same time, but start out feeding them in separate locations. Be patient, the adjustment time takes days and often weeks. As the dog and cat become more comfortable around each other, they will sort out their relationship.

Animal Services offers a low-cost **Doggie Manners Class** with each dog or puppy adoption. To register: please e-mail [doggiemannersclass@gmail.com](mailto:doggiemannersclass@gmail.com)



## Want a Happy, Well Behaved Dog?



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Over 1 million dogs trained worldwide  
We train any dog, any age, any problem

**877.500.BARK (2275) or rate your dog's  
behavior at [www.BarkBusters.com](http://www.BarkBusters.com)**

## Microchips

### What is it?

A Microchip is about the size of a grain of rice, and provides an identification number that is maintained by a national registry. This number can be traced to a pet's guardian.

### Why is it important?

A microchip implant is a good way of ensuring your pet's identification. Every dog and cat adopted from Tallahassee Animal Services goes home with a microchip identification implant. New owners should buy a collar to display an ID tag and rabies tag. Other animal shelters or rescue groups, as well as Veterinarians scan lost pets for microchips.



**REMINDER: if you  
move or change phone  
numbers, be sure to  
update this information  
with the microchip  
provider.**

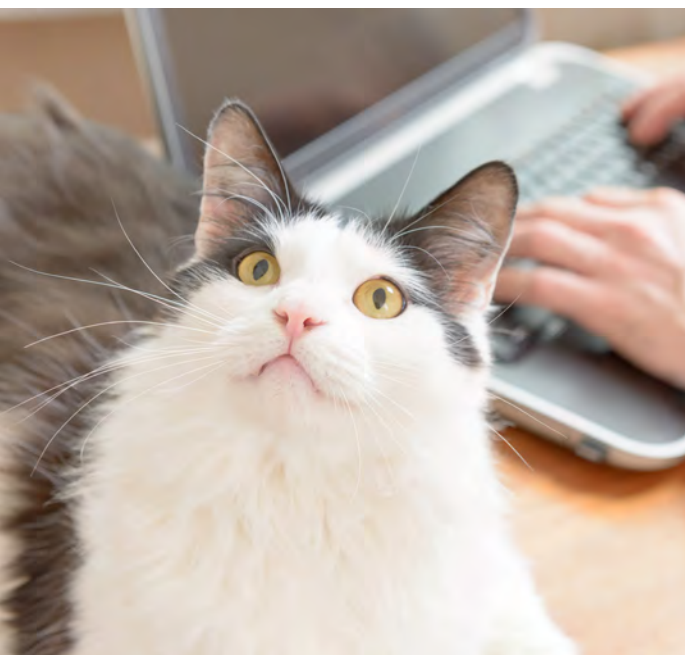


# Your New Cat's Arrival

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**Bringing a cat into your life is an exciting experience. Your cat will need to acclimate to her new home and her role as your family's companion.**

We recommend providing a personal space for your new cat when you bring her home. This space allows your cat to adjust to her new environment at her own pace. As your new cat demonstrates comfort in her new environment, gradually introduce her to all areas of your home. Studies have shown that it can take an adult cat up to eight months to fully integrate into a new home, especially when factors such as children or other pets are present. Be patient and provide your new cat with a lot of affection and physical contact.



## Animal Introductions

How you introduce your new cat to other household pets may influence long-term relationships between animals. Allow your new cat and your existing pets to experience gradual positive interactions over the course of a few days. As the animals begin to demonstrate an acceptance of each other allow them to interact under your supervision. It is best to keep your new cat separate from your existing pets in your absence until you are confident in their interactions. If you observe interactions that are aggressive, separate the animals and contact Tallahassee Animal Services.

The primary goal for a dog and cat relationship is for your dog not to chase the cat(s), and for them to live safely and in harmony. Start with the dog on a leash until you know for sure that the cat(s) is not in danger. You should be the top ranking animal in your family and you must support the inter-animal ranking decided by your pets. Insist on good manners from the beginning. Don't reward any whining, growling or pushy

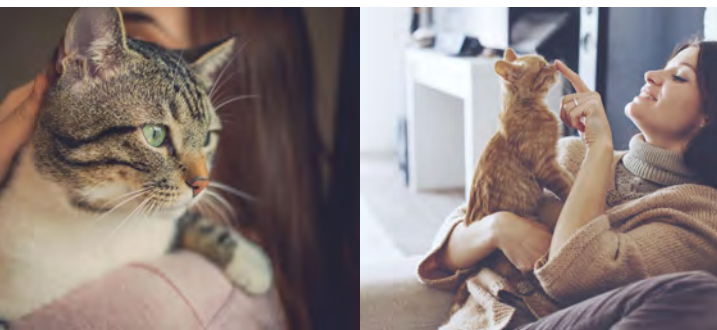
behavior in attempts to gain attention. If you feel you must break up a fight, use a hose or squirt bottle filled with vinegar and water. Never grab or pick up any frightened animal and never separate fighting animals with your hands. Plan short periods of playtime, treat time and give attention to each pet separately and together. Serve meals at the same time, but start out feeding them in separate locations. Be patient, the adjustment time takes days and often weeks.

## Introduction to Children

Until you are certain that your new cat and children are safe together, make sure that you keep them separate unless supervised. Learning to read a cat's subtle body language when she is around children will be helpful. If there is EVER a moment when you think that your cat is trying to harm your child, or vice versa (your child may try to inadvertently harm your cat) separate them immediately. Young children must be closely supervised at all times with kittens as they may accidentally injure the kitten.

## Feeding

You've heard that cats are finicky. This is often true when it comes to their appetite! Your new cat needs to establish healthy eating habits as soon as she gets home. Cats not eating for 36 to 48 hours after arriving in a new home can develop life threatening health problems. Newly introduced cats should be kept in a separate, stress-free environment and offered a variety of canned and dry foods. Once good eating habits are established, you can transition the cat to a more regular food source. Contact your veterinarian if you suspect that your cat is not eating.



## Lost and Found

Every cat adopted from Tallahassee Animal Services goes home with a microchip identification implant. We also encourage the purchase of a breakaway collar and ID tag. Microchips are a good way of ensuring your pet's identification. Shelters and vets scan lost pets for microchips. A microchip, which is about the size of a grain of rice provides an identification number that is maintained by a national registry. This number can be traced to a pet's guardian. Be sure to regularly update all contact information with the microchip provider so if you and your pet ever become separated, your pet can be scanned and you can be contacted immediately. Reminder: if you move or change phone numbers, be sure to update this information with the microchip provider.



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**building a strong**  
**brand."** – MICHAEL D.



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# Litter Box Training

Cats are not born knowing how to use the litter box. It is something that is learned from those who help to guide them on the right path through confinement and redirection. Cats instinctively want to dig and bury their urine and excrement. Change is one of the most common catalysts for cats developing litter box problems and one huge change is being adopted and going into a new home! To make the transition as successful as possible it is best to follow these simple guidelines:



## One Box

One large lid-free box per cat in the household as a minimum (litterbox lids/ covers can create a portable toilet type environment and are discouraged).



## Location

Select a location that is away from high traffic areas and easily accessible. If there are dogs in the home, make sure that they do not have access to the litterbox or food (a dog startling a new cat in a litterbox can lead to problems).



## Food

Food and boxes should not be in the same space.



## Type

Cats prefer sand-type litters without strong perfumes.



## Scoop 2x

Thoroughly scoop the box twice a day. Once a week, dump and clean the box with soap and water (do not use lemon scented or strong scented soap).



**NORTHWOOD**  
**ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
**PETS EMERGENCY**

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**EMERGENCY Care Hospital**

AAHA Accredited Hospital

[NorthwoodAnimalHospital.com](http://NorthwoodAnimalHospital.com)



**AAHA Accredited Hospital**  
**Tallahassee's Premier Pet Resort Facility**  
[SouthwoodAnimalHospital.com](http://SouthwoodAnimalHospital.com)

# Declawing

There is a simple alternative to declawing that is available for your cat. Introduce a scratching post. You can make it yourself or it can be purchased. Your cat's scratching post should be tall enough so your cat can stretch completely when scratching, and stable enough so it won't wobble when being used. It should be covered with a strong, heavy, rough fiber like the backside of carpeting and lined with catnip.

Make the post a fun place by placing toys around it or rub it with catnip. You can place it near a window complete with a bird or squirrel feeder in sight. If you're trying to discourage your cat from scratching a particular piece of furniture, try placing the post in front of it, gradually moving the post aside as your cat begins to use it regularly.

A quick squirt from a water bottle will let your cat know when he has made a wrong choice between your furniture and the scratching post. Training your cat to use their post helps increase the bond between cat and owner by increasing communications.

Clipping the nails every week or two keeps nails short and less able to do damage. With the owner's patience and training, most cats will allow nail trimming.

If possible get your kitten used to having its feet handled and nails clipped while young. Let your veterinarian show you how to trim your cat's nails. The only equipment necessary is a good pair of nail clippers. Don't forget to praise your cat while you clip the nails, and reward him with a treat.

Declawing is illegal in many cities and countries and is strongly discouraged by the animal welfare community.

**We strongly discourage declawing your cat. It's the equivalent of amputating the tip of a person's finger at the last joint. Declawing actually includes the removal of tendons, ligaments, bone, nerves as well the claw.**



## Toys + Exercise

Adult cats sleep an average of eighteen hours a day! Small balls\*, wand toys, and mouse-prey substitutes are great for cats that are prey driven and want to hunt. Toys that dangle from a pole, on strings that wriggle, or that can be pulled along will also make a cat that wants to chase happy. Cats that are more sedate may enjoy catnip filled toys and treats sprinkled around the house allowing the cat to hunt for food.

*\*Small balls discouraged if dogs are present in the home as they may present a choking hazard*



## Scratching

Cats have the innate need to scent mark and exercise the tendons in their feet. Scratching posts provide areas in your home where you can allow your cat to scratch. If you can, get your cat interested in a material that doesn't replicate surfaces in your home (cardboard or sisal as opposed to carpet or fabric), so your cat will be less likely to destroy your furnishings. If your cat is a vigorous scratcher, you can use a deterrent material (like sticky tape or metallic materials like aluminum foil) to redirect your cat to a dedicated scratching area.

# Lifetime of Wellness

The health of your pet is important to us, especially during their initial transition into your home. Tallahassee Animal Services is an open-admission animal shelter and takes in all animals needing temporary shelter regardless of health status. Many of the animals entering our facility are stray animals with unknown histories, and many have never received any preventative veterinary care like vaccines, deworming or parasite prevention. In an effort to reduce the spread of disease, all animals


entering our facility are dewormed and vaccinated for many common diseases. In addition, they also undergo a brief medical assessment prior to adoption. Even with these measures we are unable to guarantee that all animals are 100% free of disease.

To start your pet off on the right track, it's very important to schedule an appointment with your family veterinarian for a new pet exam within the first week of adoption.

Your veterinarian will examine your pet, discuss proper care and nutrition, and address any questions you have about your new pet.

Many of the veterinarians in our community offer a discount on new pet visits for animals adopted from Tallahassee Animal Services. Participating veterinarians are listed on page 19.

Be sure to bring a copy of your pet's medical history with you to your pet's first appointment.



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# Welcome home! Now go play!



**850.422.3063**  
2595 Centerville Road | Tallahassee, FL 32308

# Should Your Pet Become Lost

**Place a few familiar items outdoors so your pet may be attracted by the scent. Examples include your pet's litter box, bedding, cage, food, favorite toys or any other item with their scent on it. Even clothing or bedding with your scent may be helpful.**

Check underneath decks and in crawl spaces of homes that are elevated from the ground. Frightened animals tend to hide in dark, secure places.

Walk through the area where your pet was last seen. Call his name, squeak his favorite toy, rattle his leash, or say some key words that might get his attention ("walk", "cookie" or any word that normally gets your pet to respond).

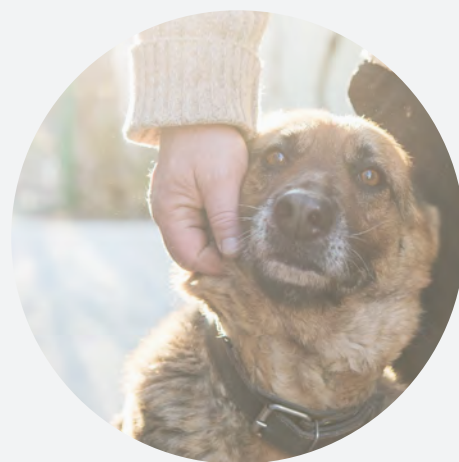
Visit Tallahassee Animal Services as soon as possible to file a "Lost Pet Report" Please bring a few recent photos of your pet for identification purposes. Dogs are held for six (6) days and cats are rehomed immediately if they do not have a microchip.

Inform your veterinarian that your pet is missing. Also notify veterinary clinics within a ten-mile radius of where the animal was last seen. Call Emergency Vet Clinics and notify them of your lost pet.

Cats normally do not stray further than eight (8) houses so reach out to your neighbors personally to let them know your cat is missing.

## HELPFUL HINTS

- 1)** Always keep a current identification tag and rabies tag on your pet's collar. Update your personal contact information ASAP if you move or your phone number changes.
- 2)** Have your pet microchipped as another means of identification should the collar or tags become lost.
- 3)** Spay or neuter your pet. It reduces their tendency to roam and has many other health and behavioral benefits.
- 4)** Fence your yard and routinely check for new escape routes; keep gates locked for added security.
- 5)** Leash your dog when you take him/her off your property.
- 6)** Always transport your cat in a carrier.
- 7)** Keep current photos of your pet handy for identification purposes (both close-ups and full body shots).



Every dog and cat adopted from Tallahassee Animal Services goes home microchipped. A microchip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, is implanted under the animal's skin between the shoulder blades and provides a unique identification number that is maintained by a national registry. Please remember to update your contact information with the microchip company regularly. Most animals are microchipped with Petlink at Tallahassee Animal Services. Some animals come into the Shelter with a microchip from a different company so you will need to find out who to contact.

Always keep a collar on your pet with an up-to-date identification tag and rabies vaccine tag attached. Even if they do not normally go outside, there is always a chance that they could become startled and run out the door unexpectedly or be let out accidentally.



## CLASSIFIED AD

Place a Lost Pet Notice in the "Good Neighbor" Classified Section of the Tallahassee Democrat (and/or in other local newspapers where the animal was last seen) and on craigslist.com under the Pets and Lost/Found sections.

## POST FLIERS

Post laminated fliers or posters in permissible areas, especially near schools and other public places where large numbers of people will see them. Use a current photo of your pet and brightly colored paper when creating your flyer or poster. Let your neighbors, delivery people, repairmen and others in the area know that your pet is missing (neighborhood children are especially good at helping search).



## OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

If you have recently moved (within a 60-day period), check the old neighborhood, as well as the new neighborhood.

Since your pet is microchipped, confirm your personal information with the company where the chip was registered.

## QUICK TIPS

Verify that the correct owner information is linked to your pet's rabies tag (name, current address, phone numbers). Contact the veterinarian that issued the rabies tag, if the pet is not from Animal Services.

Check the lost and found column in the newspaper and Craigslist online regularly.

Check with Tallahassee Animal Services in person at least every 1-2 days.

Check with neighboring shelters and animal rescue groups in the area where the animal was last seen.

Check local veterinary emergency clinics to see if they have treated your pet.

## NEVER GIVE UP!

**Missing pets have been found weeks, months and even years after they have gone missing.**

# Emergency Numbers & Info

## ANIMAL CONTROL

### INSIDE CITY LIMITS:

#### TALLAHASSEE ANIMAL SERVICES

1125 Easterwood Drive (at Tom Brown Park)

Tallahassee, FL 32311

**Phone:** (850) 891-2958

**Website:** [www.talgov.com/animals](http://www.talgov.com/animals)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Weekends, holidays and evenings call (850) 606-5800 for sick, injured or aggressive domestic animals only.

Provides prevention and enforcement programs within the city limits.

### OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS:

#### LEON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

911 Easterwood Drive

Tallahassee, FL 32311

**Phone:** (850) 606-5400

**Website:** [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

Weekends, holidays and evenings call (850) 606-5800 for sick, injured or aggressive domestic animals.

Provides prevention and enforcement programs throughout Leon County. Also picks up stray animals in the county.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Phone: (850) 606-5800

Website: [lcso.leonfl.org](http://lcso.leonfl.org)

For aggressive animal and escaped livestock emergencies.

## WILDLIFE RESCUE

### ST. FRANCIS WILDLIFE CENTER

P.O. Box 38160

Tallahassee, FL 32315

**Phone:** (850) 386-6296

**Website:** [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org)

**E-mail:** [sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org](mailto:sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org)

A local, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife in north Florida and south Georgia through the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and public education.

### GOOSE CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

3400 Williams Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32311

**Animal Hotline:** (850) 385-8792

**Bus. Phone:** (850) 508-7587

**Website:** [www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org](http://www.goosecreekwildlifesanctuary.org)

A local, non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the sick, displaced and injured native wildlife. They take in, care for and rehabilitate injured/orphaned wildlife.

# Frequently Asked Questions



## When do I need to take my new pet to the veterinarian?

Each pet adopted from Tallahassee Animal Services has received their first set of vaccines, deworming medication and a brief health assessment by our animal care staff. Your new pet will need to visit your family veterinarian within seven (7) days of adoption to continue their vaccines and deworming, as well as start appropriate monthly heartworm and parasite prevention.



## What should I do if my pet becomes ill?

If your newly adopted pet becomes ill please call your veterinarian to schedule an appointment. Adopters are responsible for payment of all fees at the veterinarian they select. Animal Services cannot reimburse you for veterinary bills. Additionally, we are unable to provide veterinary care or prescribe medications for your pet following adoption.



## How will I know if my pet is sick?

Common signs of illness in animals can include, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, sneezing, poor appetite, or lethargy. If you have any concerns about your pet's health, contact your family veterinarian.



## What if I want to return my pet?

We recognize that some pet matches may not be successful through no fault of the person or the pet. You may receive an exchange or refund of your adoption fee if your return occurs within 30 days of the original adoption date. Please bring any copies of medical records with you when returning your pet.

## Shelter Support

### Doggie Manners

is our low cost basic dog training class. The 6 week class helps teach shelter pups – and their owners – how to live happily together in their new homes.

### Microchip Clinics

We're improving the chances of lost pets finding their way back home by hosting low cost microchip clinics for all pets in our community.

### HART + UTOPIA

Heartworm Assistance Rehabilitation Training (HART) and UTOPIA (Undergoing Training and Obedience in Prison to Improve Adoptability) for select dogs in the care of Tallahassee Animal Services.

Please help us meet our membership goal by becoming a member at [animalshelterfoundation.org](http://animalshelterfoundation.org) today!

# What is ASF?

The Animal Shelter Foundation's mission is to educate the community, encourage responsible pet ownership and provide veterinary care and other resources to support the animals in the care of Tallahassee Animal Services.

ASF's "Vet Visit" program delivers critical surgeries and specialized medical treatments to the Service Center's four-legged residents and foster care animals, helping ready them for adoption into permanent homes. The "Heartworm Help" program targets heartworm

positive dogs, giving them a second chance for a healthy life by offering no-cost treatment through Tallahassee Animal Services or by picking up a portion of the heartworm treatment costs for adopters. And the ASF's "Animal Birth Control" initiative reaches into the community to combat local pet overpopulation, delivering no-cost spay and neuter surgeries to help reduce the number of unwanted animals entering our shelter. ASF is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax deductible.

## Contact Us:

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**Email:** [info@animalshelterfoundation.org](mailto:info@animalshelterfoundation.org)

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