

# JOIN THE Return to Home CHALLENGE



## Return to Home Practices Option Briefs

- 1. Use Petco Love Lost for lost and found pet reports, so all lost and found pets go into one central database**

Petco Love Lost is a free national service that uses photo-matching technology to reunite lost pets. It can make matches between pets in your care and multiple platforms, including Nextdoor and Neighbors by Ring, giving folks the best chance to find or help lost pets before they enter your shelter. You can email [lost@petcolove.org](mailto:lost@petcolove.org) and they can set you up.

- 2. Provide at least 50% of its animal control officers that engage with public microchip scanners**

Scanning for microchips in the field can help officers contact pet owners and return pets to their homes, often without transporting pets to the shelter. Provide at least half of your officers with scanners. Train them to scan effectively and to use microchip registries to identify and contact owners.

- 3. Waive or reduce reclaim fees by at least 50%**

Reclaim fees are a barrier for some pet caregivers who want to bring their pets home. Waive reclaim fees entirely or reduce them by at least 50% for the full month of September. If budget is a concern, consider the cost savings on gas, daily care, and labor that other return to home practices facilitate. Can you pair this option with another choice, like in-field microchip scanning, that offsets the loss of income?

- 4. Rehoming/Pre-Adoption: Allow the public to view and place an adoption hold on an animal before the animal's stray hold period expires**

Make pets available for pre-adoption while they're on their required stray holding period. Pre-adoption allows potential adopters to view, meet, and possibly pay an adoption fee for "stray wait" pets with the understanding that their adoption will be canceled if an owner reclaims during the stray hold period.

- 5. Host low-cost or free microchipping event during September 2024 or offer free microchipping for the duration of September 2024**

Offer a 1+ day event with free or reduced cost microchipping services. Use the marketing materials provided to drive interest in your event.

If staffing a special event isn't feasible, offer free microchipping services for the full month of September during your standard operating hours.

**6. Publish a quality photo for all lost dogs on your website within 24 hours of intake**

Clear photos are essential to identifying lost pets easily when a family is looking for their beloved family member. Take a clear photo of each lost dog and add it to your website within 24 hours of intake.

**7. Conduct in-field investigation for home**

Require animal control officers to follow lost pets to see if they can identify their home and talk to at least one community member if unable to identify by following pet. Leave an informational flyer at the suspected home with reclaim instructions.

**8. Hang flyers for impounded animals**

Require animal control officers to hang 2 provide flyers with the animal's information at the nearest intersection to where the pet was found.

**9. Utilize Nextdoor or Neighbors by Ring to share about lost pets**

Utilize Nextdoor or Neighbors by Ring to share about lost pets Begin posting all stray/lost pets on Nextdoor or Neighbors by Ring with a photo and found location. (You can share easily to Nextdoor through Petco Love Lost).