

Charlton Animal Control has been in the news recently for our involvement in disturbing cases of animal abuse and cruelty. Responding to and addressing these issues is vitally important to the well being of the animals in Charlton, but the stories that come out of animal control are not all bad. We also have some great happy ending stories and thought we'd share them.

Little Lost Dog: A Lhasa mix was reported missing from Charlton by her owners on April 25th. They searched for days, but there were no sightings and after weeks went by, they had little hope of finding her. Then, we received a call from a woman who had found a small dog in a neighboring town. The description she gave of the dog matched the information we had on the lost dog. The little Lhasa mix had traveled over 6 miles and had been missing for almost exactly a month. On May 23rd, we were thrilled to reunite her with her owners!

Senior Cat Happy to Be Home: An elderly black and white cat was found at the end of June and taken in by animal control so he'd be safe. He was posted on the cable access channel and on the animal control webpage, but days went by and no one called about him. He was such a sweet old guy and we were reluctant to bring him to a shelter because of his advanced age. We were very happy and relieved to get a call from his owner saying that she had seen his picture on the webpage! They were reunited 10 days after he went missing!

Kitty Goes Missing: We logged a call about a lost cat on July 7th. The small gray cat had been missing for a few days already and her owners were very worried. We receive many reports of lost and found cats, but rarely are we able to reunite a lost cat with its owner. There were no sightings and no calls until one night, a lady reported a found cat at her house. She said she was sweet and friendly and she felt that they cat must belong to someone. The gender and color matched the report of the missing cat so we called her owners and they went out to see the found cat. We were delighted to hear that they were one and the same! She had walked over a mile and had been gone for two months!

Reuniting lost pets with their owners is one of the best parts of our jobs as ACOs. We reunite lost dogs with their owners often and are very pleased with the success we've had in matching up lost and found cats too. Help us get your lost pet home quickly by taking these common sense steps. Make sure your dog has a collar on with a current town license and ID tags attached. For indoor/outdoor cats, consider a breakaway collar. Micro-chips are also a good choice for both dogs and cats.

Most importantly, call us as soon as your pet goes missing. You can also visit us on line at www.townofcharlton.net/animalcontrol.htm. We maintain a lost/found list, including pictures whenever possible. You will also find links to low cost spay/neuter programs, adoption information, and many other excellent pet related resources. We are always happy to assist!

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