

Reclaim Your Pet

Has your pet been brought into Tri-County Animal Shelter?

Please review the following information to help facilitate the speediest reunion, then give Tri-County Animal Shelter a call (301) 932-1713.

Impounded stray animals are held for 72 hours. After 72 hours, the animal becomes property of the shelter and thus may be placed up for adoption, transferred to another organization, or humanely euthanized.

To ensure that an animal is returned to its rightful owner, the owner may be asked to provide medical or vaccination history or a photograph of your pet. You will be asked to verify the city and major cross streets where your pet was lost; and the date you last saw your pet. You will also need to bring a government issued ID and must be 18 years of age. Animals will not be released to a minor.

Animals can be reclaimed by appointment by their owners during lobby hours. Please call to schedule an appointment. Lobby hours are Monday-Saturday 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm. The shelter is closed on Sundays and all Charles County Government holidays.

Please be aware there are fees associated with picking up your pet from TCAS, as the shelter provides vaccinations, food, water and shelter to all animals brought in. If needed, life sustaining and pain relieving care is also provided. By County regulation; any owner reclaiming an impounded animal shall, *before the animal will be released*, pay impoundment, boarding, microchip, licensing fees, and any associated veterinary care as listed. Proof of a current rabies vaccination must be provided otherwise a rabies voucher fee will be assessed.

Impound & Boarding Fees

1st time impoundment \$25

2nd time impoundment ... \$50 (within 12 months)

Boarding fee for 1st impoundment...\$15 per day

Boarding fee for 2nd impoundment...\$30 per day

For Charles County Residents-Upon the third and any subsequent impoundments within 12 months, the animal shall remain in the shelter until the owner or custodian appears before the Animal Matters Hearing Board's next scheduled hearing.

Microchip

Microchipping your pet greatly increases the likelihood of your pet reuniting with you, if they are lost. By County regulation; all pet reclamations are required to get a microchip. A microchip fee of \$10 will be assessed.

Rabies Vaccinations

No dog, cat or ferret shall be released from TCAS without the owner presenting proof that the dog, cat or ferret has a current rabies vaccine. An owner of any dog, cat or ferret who cannot provide proof of said rabies vaccination shall be subject to a fee of fifty dollars (\$50) for a rabies voucher for each dog, cat, or ferret. A rabies voucher requires the owner to get their pet vaccinated for rabies within 60 days. Returning the voucher to TCAS within 60 days of reclaim with a copy of the rabies vaccination will get a refund of fifty dollars (\$50) sent to the pet owner by mail.

Licensing fees

Upon reclamation of your dog or cat all licensing fees for Charles and Calvert Counties shall be paid.

Charles County:

Unaltered: \$25

Altered: \$5

St. Mary's County license tags can be purchased at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/treasurer/doglicense.asp>

Veterinary Care

Sometimes the animal may have received injuries while it was lost. We provide life sustaining and pain relieving care for the pet, but you may need to obtain follow-up veterinary care. As the owner you are responsible for the shelter associated expenses in addition to any follow-up care. These expenses will be explained to you and added to your other reclaim fees.

For your convenience TCAS accepts cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express or Debit Cards.