



## FRIDAY FACTS FROM BARRIO DOGS

### ▶ DID YOU FIND A DOG? ARE YOU WONDERING WHAT TO DO?

Houston has an animal overpopulation crisis and odds are that some day, you will encounter a homeless dog that needs help. If that happens, you may wonder what to do. Please be your own hero and be prepared to assist an animal in need.

#### **IF YOU SEE A HOMELESS OR ABANDONED DOG IN HOUSTON, APPROACH IT CAREFULLY.**

If it's injured, call the SPCA at 713-869-SPCA (7722) and report it so they can pick it up. It will probably be euthanized but at least it won't be suffering. If it's aggressive and threatening, contact BARC at 311. If it's approachable and not aggressive, give it food and water and take it to a vet to scan for a microchip. If there's no microchip, distribute "Found Dog" flyers in the area where you found it and post the flyers on lost & found pets Facebook pages, NextDoor and any other neighborhood sites.

#### **THE DOG HAS NO ID AND I CAN'T FIND ITS OWNER. WHAT DO I DO NEXT?**

If you can't find an owner and can't keep the dog, there aren't many options. Depending on where you live, you can take it to BARC or the Harris County Animal Shelter but they may euthanize it. Other shelters charge a surrender fee and also euthanize. A rescue group may have room for the dog but that is rare. Your best bet is to find the dog a home yourself.

#### **FINDING THE DOG A HOME: NEXT STEPS.**

- Start by getting the dog vaccinated and spayed or neutered and treated for any medical problems it may have like mange. If you can commit to fostering and finding the dog a home, a rescue group may be able to assist with vetting.
- Make an adoption flyer with cute photos of the dog and a short bio with basic information like approximate age, breed, size and weight, demeanor and vetting status. Describe how it interacts with other dogs, cats and children.
- Then promote, promote, promote! Share the adoption flyer at work, etc. and post it on social media. Send it to friends, co-workers, relatives and others and ask them to help in the search.

#### **WHEN YOU FIND A POTENTIAL ADOPTER, CHECK HIM OR HER OUT THOROUGHLY.**

- Barrio Dogs has an application you can use for potential adopters.
- Meet the potential adopter at a dog park or other public area. Ask them to bring their own dog(s) if any. Ask about fencing and security in their yard, whether the dog will be kept indoors or outdoors, where it will sleep, etc. Trust your instincts; if the person doesn't seem legit, don't let them have the dog.
- Be patient. It may take a while to find the right home, or maybe you will become a foster failure and adopt the dog yourself.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT  
INFO@BARRIODOGS.ORG