

STRAY DOG HANDLING PROCEDURE

TOWN OF OSCEOLA

2026

Section 174.042(3), Wis. Stat., states that “an officer *shall* attempt to capture and restrain any dog running at large and any untagged dog”. An “officer” may be a peace officer, local health officer, humane officer, warden an employee designated by Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, or other designated by the governing body of the county, city, village or town.

Under Wis. Stat. 170.02(1) if the town *chooses* to take stray dogs into custody, as the finder of the stray animal, they must notify the owner that they have possession of that stray. This notice must be provided to the owner within seven (7) days of finding the stray and the notice may include the requirement that the owner pay the reasonable charges related to the animal’s care and that the owner take the stray away.

Upon recovery of a stray dog within the township the town ***will;***

- a. Provide food, water and shelter to the dog upon recovery. This will continue to be done at the town hall garage in the pen set aside for stray dogs. At a minimum, the dog will be checked on twice a day to insure the pen stays clean and that water is available at all times.
- b. Attempt to contact the owner if the dog has tags. This could be thru the rabies license, phone # or any other information available on the tags.
- c. Post a “Lost Dog” posting on the “What’s Going on Dundee, WI” Facebook page and also send out a notice on the Town of Osceola web site so that all subscribers will be aware of the lost dog.
- d. Transport the dog to a selected local veterinarian to verify if the dog is microchipped. If it is, contact will be made to the owner based on the information provided by the veterinarian. If the dog is vicious or determined not to be able to be safely transported this step may not be possible.
- e. Contact Sandi Paws Rescue, Inc. after seven days since recovery for them to pickup the stray dog for medical evaluation and adoption.