

# Found Cats & Stray Hold Policy

Minnalousha May's Cat Hideaway (MMCH) is committed to reuniting lost cats with their owners whenever possible while ensuring every cat receives safe, compassionate care.

## When a Found Cat is Received

When MMCH accepts a stray or found cat into our care, we will:

- Document the date the cat was received, the location where it was found, and its physical condition.
- Take photographs of the cat.
- Scan for a microchip.
- Provide any immediate medical care needed to protect the cat's health and well-being.

## Stray Hold

MMCH observes a minimum of **five (5) regular business day** stray hold to allow an owner to reclaim their cat.

During this time, MMCH may post information and photographs of the cat on social media or other appropriate platforms in an effort to locate the owner.

Minnalousha May's Cat Hideaway is a foster-based nonprofit rescue and is **not** a municipal animal control agency. We assist with found cats whenever possible and work to reunite them with their owners while following our rescue's intake procedures and applicable law.

## Claiming Your Cat

Anyone claiming ownership of a found cat must provide reasonable proof of ownership before the cat can be released.

Examples of acceptable proof include:

- Registered microchip information
- Veterinary records
- Adoption paperwork
- Dated photographs clearly identifying the cat

- Other documentation that reasonably establishes ownership

MMCH reserves the right to request additional information if ownership cannot be reasonably verified.

## **Reclaim Fees**

To help offset the cost of caring for found cats during the stray hold period, MMCH may assess the following reclaim fees:

- **First reclaim within a 12-month period: \$75**
- **Second reclaim within a 12-month period: \$150**

Additional veterinary or medical expenses incurred while the cat is in MMCH's care may be assessed separately when applicable.

## **Medical Care During the Hold**

If a found cat requires emergency veterinary treatment during the stray hold period, MMCH may authorize necessary medical care to protect the cat's health and welfare.

## **After the Stray Hold**

If no owner is identified and ownership is not reasonably established before the conclusion of the stray hold, the cat may become the responsibility of MMCH and may enter the rescue's adoption program or continue receiving care in accordance with MMCH's mission and applicable law.

## **Our Commitment**

MMCH strives to work respectfully with everyone seeking to reclaim a found cat. Throughout the process, the safety, health, and welfare of every cat remain our highest priority.

**Risa Jenko**

Founder, Minnalousha May's Cat Hideaway (MMCH)