

What to do if you lose your pet, or pet becomes Lost.



Get the word out early!! This is the key to getting your pet back safely. Don't assume your pet will return on his/her own in a few hours. Don't wait around to see if they will find their way home. As soon as you realize your pet is missing, **GET THE WORD OUT!** Remember, have several good, clear photos of your pet on hand and **ALWAYS** make sure your pets are wearing a collar with identification tags.

MAKE LOTS OF POSTERS

Keep it simple: "LOST CAT" or "LOST DOG" should be at the top in large, easy to read letters. Include a brief description of the breed type. Don't assume that people will recognize your particular breed so always include a description. If you can, add the picture to the poster. Include the animal's name (it makes your pet a valued member of your family). Offer a reward but don't mention the amount, and put your name and phone number in large print at the bottom of the poster. Hang the posters everywhere: post office, bus stops, convenience stores, gas stations, drug stores, wherever you think it will get good exposure.

INDEX CARDS

With the same information and drop them off around your neighborhood. Put them on windshields and under doors. Stop and speak with every person you meet: the more people you tell, the better. Ask people to check their sheds, barns and back yards, especially at night.

ADS

Place a LOST PET ad in the newspaper the very first morning your pet is gone. These ads are usually free. Place an ad on the Internet as well; there are many sites that will offer this service.

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CANVAS THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Get out and call your pet by name. Ask family and friends to canvas the neighborhood, in all directions. Don't try to predict where your pet could go – YOU NEVER KNOW. The best time to call for your pet is as night, and at dawn. If you are calling from your car, drive slowly, roll down the windows, stop and turn your vehicle off frequently to listen.

PHONE CALLS

- CALL YOUR NEIGHBORS PERSONALLY
- Call all veterinary clinics and emergency veterinary hospitals outside your area. Sometimes people pick up a stray and drive it to a distant clinic.
- Call all animal shelters and animal control officers, local and state police, local kennels, highway maintenance, dog training clubs, grooming shops, etc..... **GET THE WORD OUT!**

LOST PET REPORT

Visit all local animal shelters personally on a daily basis and look at all the dogs and cats. What looks like a brown tabby to you may be a gray tabby to someone else, and some people might think that a shepherd/lab mix looks like a beagle/collie mix.

Remember that even the friendliest pet may quickly become terrified. He may hide from people, run away if he sees a person, and even run away from you. Don't chase after a lost pet – they are much faster than we are and it will only scare them more. Instead, sit on the ground, talk in a normal voice and say familiar phrases.

DON'T GIVE UP!

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