

Finding a lost pet

Losing a pet is a serious situation and an owner's nightmare. While it is true that many cats and dogs will eventually find their way home, the sad reality is that many will not. There are some simple steps you can take to prevent a pet from getting lost, and in case one does, to quickly and effectively search for it.

Preventive measures:

- Build an adequate sized fenced area for your pet. Make sure that the fence is long enough to prevent your pet from digging under it and escaping.
- Make sure all your pets wear appropriate tags displaying their name and phone number.
- Consider tattooing or micro-chipping your pet – if found, a veterinarian or animal control officer can scan your pet and properly identify them.
- Spay or Neuter your pet. Altered dogs are less aggressive; more people oriented, less likely to contract certain diseases, including uterine and prostate cancer, and are less likely to roam.
- Confine your pet to the house during thunderstorms, fireworks displays, special events with noisy crowds or other loud events which might make your pet nervous or frightened.
- Take pictures of your pets and with them. A current photo will be invaluable in the event that your dog is lost, a picture with you will help establish ownership if needed.

What to do if your pet is lost:

- Try to identify the area where the pet was lost and provide the pet's name, description and owner's phone number to people in that area.
- Contact your local animal control office and ask for recent animals that were brought in.
- Visit local shelters and leave a picture of your pet and your contact information.
- Post signs, offer rewards and place notices in the newspaper with your pet's information.