



# LOCating a

## Missing Pet



Locating a missing pet can be a heartbreaking experience, especially if you are confused about where to turn for help.

### Check Local Shelters

Check with your local animal control agency, humane society, animal rescue organizations, and rabies control officer. Tell them you are looking for your lost pet and provide them a description. E-mailing a photo of your pet would be the most accurate description you could provide.

If possible, visit the agencies and organizations you have contacted, particularly those with animal control field officers. Given the number of animals taken in daily and their staff rotations, your pet may have been overlooked. Remember, even small municipalities surrounding your city may have an Animal Control Officer.

### Alert Service Providers

Your mail carrier delivers your mail and the mail in a multi-mile radius. Your trash collectors are also driving through your neighborhood and those around you. Leave a photo, description, and contact information in your mailbox and taped to your trash receptacles.

### Contact the Former Owner

If you recently adopted your pet from an individual, check with the previous owner. Your pet may be trying to find its way back to what used to be "home."

### Contact Local Veterinarians

Contact your vet, other vets in the surrounding area, and any emergency animal clinic. If your pet was injured, it may have been brought to a vet for treatment.

### Get the Word Out

Some radio stations, particularly the smaller local stations, broadcast lost and found pets. Check with them.

Advertise in your local paper, reputable internet sites, and on social media. Do not mention where your pet was lost. You would be surprised how far animals can travel, especially if running from fireworks or other loud noises.

Post a description of your pet around your neighborhood and the surrounding area. Remember, it is illegal to place flyers in or on mailboxes, and some communities have sign ordinances regarding posters on street signs and telephone poles. Be sure to collect any posters once your pet has been found.

### Keeping Your Pet Safe

After your pet is returned home, take every precaution to ensure it does not get lost again. Repair any holes or gaps in your fence. If your pet is fearful of loud noises (e.g. thunder, fireworks, etc.), be sure your pet is placed securely in your home or garage during these times.

Be sure your pet is always wearing identification. Vets and animal shelters will always scan for a chip. Consider getting your pet chipped. Pet ID tags can be readily made by a vending machine for a nominal cost at many major pet retailers. Some feed and seed stores also offer engraved nameplates which can be riveted onto your pet's collar.