



Animal Protective Foundation

www.animalprotective.org

If You Lose Your Pet

When your pet is missing it can be very stressful and upsetting, but don't panic! Lost pets often do not go far from home, below are some tips to help ensure the safe return of your beloved pet.

- 🐾 Begin searching as soon as you notice your pet is missing. Odds are your pet has not gone very far.
- 🐾 Check alleys, playgrounds and parks. Call your pet's name repeatedly as you search.
- 🐾 File a lost report with the APF so that we can assist you in your search.
- 🐾 Contact nearby veterinarians and emergency clinics. For a lost dog, also contact local animal control officers. Dog control officers do not routinely pick up stray or unidentified cats. They will, however, bring an injured cat to a shelter or veterinarian.
- 🐾 Visit local shelters and look at the animals. Leave a picture with them if you can, this will help shelters to identify your pet if s/he comes in.
- 🐾 Talk to your neighbors, mail carriers, anyone who might have seen your pet. Most pets will stay relatively close to home when lost.
- 🐾 Distribute flyers that include a picture, large clear text, and contact information. Hang them at busy intersections and around your neighborhood, bring them door-to-door. Consider offering a reward as incentive.
- 🐾 Place an ad in the newspaper in the lost pets section; keep your eye on the found ads.
- 🐾 Cats may become stranded in trees, closed garages, storage sheds, cellars, or rooftops. Ask your neighbors to please look in these areas of their home. Missing cats are almost always found within three houses of home.
- 🐾 Havahart humane traps are available for rent at the APF. Call us for more details.
- 🐾 Make sure your pet is always wearing a collar with up-to-date ID tags, even if they are primarily an indoor pet.
- 🐾 Do not give up; pets have been reunited with their families months after they were lost.
- 🐾 Microchipping your pets is a great way to keep them safe. Lost dogs with microchips are 238% more likely to be reunited with their owners than dogs without. Likewise, cats with microchips are more than 2,000% more likely to be reunited with their owners than cats without. **The APF offers microchipping of cats, dogs, and small mammals for a low fee of \$15.** For more information or to schedule a microchip appointment, call us at (518) 374-3944, ext. 101.

For more information, visit us online at www.animalprotective.org, or call (518) 374-3944, ext. 101