



What to do if you have lost a pet.

Losing a pet is a stressful experience for any pet owner. What's most worrisome is that when pets are lost, their safety is temporarily beyond our control, which can make a person feel helpless. Fortunately, there are many steps that can be taken immediately after discovering a pet is lost, to help bring him or her safely home.

Contact Animal Agencies

Immediately telephone all local humane societies, as well as animal care, control and protection organizations within a large radius of where your pet went missing and file a lost pet report. Pets often stray farther from home than their owners believe possible. If there is no shelter in your area, contact your local police department. Visit your local animal control facility or shelter every 24 hours to search.

If you live in or near the City of Hamilton, check with the City of Hamilton Animal Services Department by calling 905-574-3433 to ask if your pet has been turned in. It is best to visit them in person at 247 Darnall Road during their operating hours, or you can check their website <https://www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/lost-found-or-surrender/lost-pets>.

List your pet on www.helpinglostpets.com and use their template to create a lost poster for your pet. You can also view animals found by Hamilton Animal Services here <http://www.helpinglostpets.com/v2/OrgPet.aspx?oid=408>

Notify Others

Call your local veterinary clinics, especially those that offer boarding. Injured pets are often taken directly to a veterinarian for care prior to transfer to an animal shelter.

Search the Neighborhood

Cats are most often found in the area they were lost unless picked up by someone and brought to a shelter. Walk and/or drive through your neighborhood several times every day. Question neighbors, joggers, postal carriers, garbage collectors and newspaper carriers and ask them to keep an eye out for your pet.

Advertise

Post your Helping Lost Pets fliers at all public places - grocery stores, community centers, churches, etc. Place an ad in the classified section of your local paper. Offer a reward if possible. Caution: To protect yourself from pet-recovery scams, leave out one of your pet's identifying characteristics so you can verify the honesty of any caller who claims to have found your pet. Post on Facebook. Search for pages that start with "Lost and Found" and look for ones in your area. There are people that monitor these pages and are dedicated to reuniting lost pets with their families. You may also post on Kijiji or other social media.

If you think your pet has been stolen, file a report with the police. Even if there have been suspected cases of pet theft in your area, don't automatically assume that your pet is the latest victim. Pets are far more likely to

stray from home and get lost. However, if you have evidence that leads you to believe your pet has been stolen, notify your local police and animal control departments immediately.

Use The Power of Scent

Place a recently worn article of clothing in your yard. For cats that usually stay indoors, place their litter box outside. Familiar scents can bring them home.

Don't Give Up

Keep searching and checking with animal agencies even when you have little hope left. Animals that have been lost for months or years have been reunited with their owners.

And The Next Time...

Make sure your pet has proper identification so that you can be contacted if your pet becomes lost again. Also keep your cat indoors or on a harness and your dog contained or leashed. The Hamilton/Burlington SPCA also recommends that you have your pet microchipped and information kept current. We offer affordable microchip and rabies clinics frequently so check here for any upcoming dates <http://hbspca.com/services/microchip-clinics/>