



Plan for a Happy Reunion

A guide to pet safety

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I'm lost and I want to go home. Please help me. Check my I.D. collar or microchip. Look for posters with my picture. Call animal shelter.



What to do to keep your pet safe



What to do if your pet gets lost

Plan for a happy reunion!

Please complete and make copies of this form to assist you in case your pet becomes lost.
Keep a copy in a safe place at home and an extra copy in your car or wallet.

Pet's Name: _____

Local animal control contact (website and phone #): _____

Gender: Female Male

Species: Cat Dog

Breed: _____

Local animal shelter contact (if different): _____

Color: _____ Weight: _____

Unusual characteristics (unique markings): _____

Local breed/species rescue groups (examples: cats-only shelter; specific dog breed rescue organizations) website, and phone number:

Your name and address: _____

Microchip number: _____

Suggested locations for fliers: _____

Name of company and website: _____

Veterinarian's contact information: _____

Pet photo here
(or location if digital)

Neighbor's contact information: _____



What to do to keep your pet safe

Happy pet checklist

- Put ID tags on your pet
- Get a microchip
- Take a photo
- Keep a record
- Make a plan

Indoor cats and microchips

About 50 percent of "indoor" cat owners don't microchip their cats because they don't think their cats will get outside or get lost, says Ohio State researcher and veterinarian Dr. Linda Lord. Ironically, another Ohio State study found that 41 percent of pet owners looking for a lost cat were looking for an "indoor-only" cat that got outdoors.

When a pet gets lost, it's a challenging and stressful time for owners and families. Plan ahead to keep your pet as safe as possible and be prepared in case your pet does get lost. Millions of animals end up in shelters every year and never make it home. In fact, fewer than 5 percent of cats taken in by animal shelters are reunited with their families.

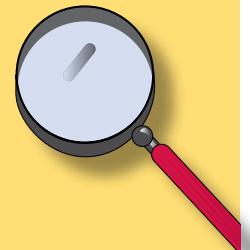
Put ID tags on your pet

Put identification tags on your pet's collar that include your pet's name and a phone number and address. This enables people to call you directly rather than taking your pet to a local animal shelter. Check your pet's collar several times a year for proper fit and tag information. Dogs should also have an up-to-date license in compliance with rules in your area.



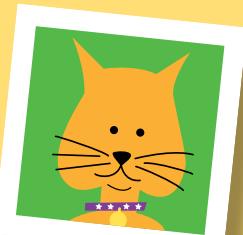
Get a microchip

Some people are turned off by the idea of microchipping, thinking it's painful, expensive, or futuristic. The truth is, microchipping is a quick, affordable, and painless method of identification for your pet. Microchipping does not replace the need for ID tags; it is merely an *extra* level of protection. The size of a grain of rice, a microchip is coded with a unique number that is registered into a national database. Lost pets can be scanned at shelters and veterinary offices throughout the country. You are responsible for keeping contact information current any time you move or change your phone number. Talk to your veterinarian about more information.



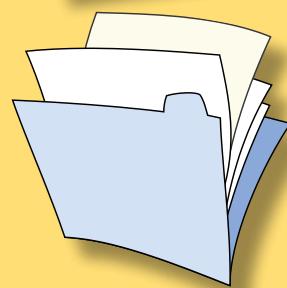
Take a photo

Keep an updated photo of your pet handy in case of emergency. Photos can be included on fliers, websites, and in newspaper ads, and can be taken with you if you visit animal shelters and local agencies.



Keep a record

Complete and save the information form included in this brochure. This form should include everything you need to begin your search, including important phone numbers, websites, and facts about your pet. Keep this information in a safe place.



Make a plan

Don't wait until your pet is missing to create a family plan. You'll save time—and you'll be much calmer—if you make a plan before an event like that happens.



What to do if your pet gets lost

Lost pet checklist

- Alert and visit local animal agencies
- Distribute fliers
- Notify neighbors
- Go online
- Advertise



How to make a flier

1. Find a good, clear photo of your animal. If it is not digital, then scan it at the highest resolution so it will be clear when copied.
2. Use a large headline such as "LOST DOG" or "MISSING CAT."
3. Put the pet's name under the photo.
4. Include additional information in a bulleted (easily read) format, including:
Breed, color, last known location (date and time), contact information (e-mail, cell phone, home phone, and alternative contact person).

Act quickly – don't panic

Even with precautions in place, your pet may slip off the leash or run out the door and not be able to find its way home. Make a plan, follow through, and try not to panic.

Alert and visit local animal agencies

Identify the local animal agencies, shelters, and police departments in your area. It is critical that you visit the city and county animal shelters in person. Shelters handle dozens of new animals every day; simply describing your animal over the phone may not be enough. Remember: Persistence is the key. You need to visit shelters on a regular basis until you find your pet. If you own a purebred animal, you should also contact rescue groups specializing in that breed. If you believe your pet was stolen, check with law enforcement to see if there is a municipal animal control officer you can contact.

Distribute fliers

Posting signs in the neighborhood is one of the best ways to find a lost pet. Fliers can spread the word and catch people's eyes. If permitted, post fliers in grocery stores, pet stores, restaurants, community centers, and other frequently visited locations. If possible, give fliers to local law enforcement and animal shelters so they can be on the lookout. Make sure contact phone numbers are always answered or have voice mail available.

Notify neighbors

Let your neighbors know your pet is missing and give them a flier. According to an Ohio State study, 71 percent of lost dogs were found within a mile of their homes, and cats are often found within one block of their homes. If your cat is missing, be sure to look under sheds and in garages and other hiding places.

Go online

Visit online sites that post lost and found pet information. Consider posting your pet's photo, description, and contact information. Ask your local shelters about which websites to visit and if they have their own website for posting. Notify your microchip company.

Advertise

Consider placing an ad about your lost pet in your local newspaper. Many papers offer discounted rates for a set number of days. Keep the information clear and concise and include contact information that you regularly check.

