

Tips on Finding a Lost Pet



Search your property and neighborhood thoroughly.

Cats and small dogs can get into tiny spaces. Look behind, under, and inside your appliances and furniture. Check your roof, attic, and trees for cats. Leave a written description and/or photo of your lost pet and your phone number with neighbors, your local postman, paperboy, parents waiting at school bus stops, and school crossing guards.

Call local veterinarian offices and visit all local animal control, humane societies, and animal shelters in your area.

Find out if any animal that resembles your pet was injured and brought in for treatment, and if so visit the office in person. Leave a picture of your pet and your phone number at every office and shelter. Check the shelters every day of two in person.

Post flyers in the vicinity of where your pet was lost.

Post at as many local businesses as possible. Include a picture or description of your pet and your telephone number. It is wise to withhold some distinctive characteristics because it may be necessary to verify if someone has actually found your pet. **DON'T INCLUDE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS ON THE FLYER!** Finally, if offering a reward, **DO NOT** state the amount.

Place an ad in your local newspaper.

Check the newspaper "found" ads daily.

Find out if your pet has been a casualty on the road.

This is a sad, but necessary task. Call around and find out which agency retrieves dead animals from the roadside in your area and ask if they have found your pet's body. *You can visit the Shelter Services section of the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program's website at www.sbcounty.gov/acc and go to the Deceased Animals page to review descriptions and locations of animals picked up by officers.

Words of Warning: NEVER respond to a "found" pet contact alone. Take someone with you and arrange to meet them in a public place. Don't invite the person to your home. Ask them to identify the distinct characteristics about your pet that you have withheld. If the person who claims to have found your pet cannot describe these features to you, it is possible they don't have your pet. Be on the alert for money scams.

Don't give up!

Pets have been known to find their way back home after being lost for several months.

Common-sense tips to protect your pets:

- Fence your yard and check it regularly for escape routes. For the safety of both your pet and visitors (wanted or unwanted), keep yard gates locked.
- Leash your pets at all times and don't allow them to roam.
- Keep a collar on your pet that has an ID and CURRENT rabies/license tag. Consider a microchip implant. Chips are permanent and reliable identification for your pet.
- Transport your pet in a carrier. Never take your pet to the vet or anywhere else unless it is secured.
- Get some good photos of your pet.
- Both males and females will be less likely to wander if they are spayed or neutered. An added benefit is that they will live a longer, happier, healthier life.

San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
(800) 472-5609
www.sbcounty.gov/acc

