



LOST & FOUND PET TIPS



Take Action Guide

Whether you've lost your pet or have found a stray pet, we have some important tips for you to follow -- and the advice is actually very similar for both scenarios! The best chances for reunification between owners and lost pets happens close to home, so by following this advice for either case we hope to increase the chances that a pet and its family will find one another quickly.

If You've Found a Pet

Often times, one of two instincts kicks in when someone finds a pet -- leave it and hope it finds its way home or pick it up and take it the shelter. But there's a third and critical way to handle this that could mean helping reunite that pet with its family much more successfully.

If possible, we're going to ask that you look for the owners in your area and possibly even foster that animal for the short term. This leaves space in the sheltering system for pets in emergency situations and critical need, but more importantly often means that the lost pet can find its home -- whereas once at the shelter those chances of reunifications start to go down.

We don't encourage this because we've changed our minds about helping animals -- quite the opposite! We want to try and get as many pets back into the loving arms of their families and over time animal shelters across the country have realized this happens better in the community. However, we're still here if you need us!



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Step One: Walk Around the Neighborhood

Simply by walking around your neighborhood, you may run into someone who is searching for their pet. Or, you may pass other neighbors or community members (delivery drivers, postal workers, landscapers, pool technicians, etc often know the pets in the homes on your street!) who know the pet and can help identify where they live. In some cases, the lost pet may even lead you back to their home.

Step Two: Check for a Microchip

A microchip is small (grain of rice-sized) tag implanted in the pet's skin (typically between the shoulder blades) that links to the owner's information when scanned with a special microchip scanner. Call local vet offices or contact the shelter to see if they can scan the pet for one! Sometimes even local fire departments or other community services have microchip scanners as well.

Step Three: Notify Local Shelters

SPCA Bradley County

(423) 790-1915

spcabradleyco@gmail.com

Cleveland Animal Control

423-479-2122



Step Four: Get the Word Out

Social media may be a way to capture attention of not just the owner but friends, family members or community members who may recognize the pet. Be sure to post a photo or two (or even a video clip) with the information about where the pet was found, anything notable about their collar or markings, as well as your contact information and where the pet is currently being housed.

Nextdoor

Facebook Lost and Found Pages

(20+) LOST & FOUND PETS: Bradley County, TN |

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117227728432285>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/reunitingourlostpetsandfamilies>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1595455803856590>

You can also make and distribute flyers around the community. Make sure the photo is large and easily seen, include where he/she was found, and basic contact information for yourself. Start by posting these around your neighborhood, then begin to branch out to nearby locations, with a special focus on essential needs -- gas stations, grocery stores, bodegas or convenience stores, parks, community centers, churches / synagogues / houses of worship.

Step Five: Upload the Pet to FindingRover.com

Finding Rover is an app and website that uses facial recognition technology to help reunite pets with owners, faster. Click on "Found Pet" on their site or app and add a photo of the found animal along with details about where he/she was found. Lost animals who look like the pet will show up and may help lead you to the lost animal.



If You've Lost a Pet

Similar to the process for finding a pet, we're going to instruct you to follow a few key steps to try and find your pet faster.

- Immediately do a search of the neighborhood and surrounding areas to see if you can locate or spot the pet. If the pet seems to be running away every time you get close, try to go against your instincts and rather than chase, see if you can make a game of you running in the opposite direction. Sometimes this can cause the pet (especially dogs) to decide to engage and chase you instead!

As you search, alert neighbors or community members you encounter so they can keep an eye out for the missing pet.

- Call local shelters, friends, and family who can help or get the word out, and pitch in to find the missing pet. Even after the initial few hours, remember to check in with the shelter daily.
- Take to social media to mobilize your community of friends and followers. Post to lost and found groups and other community-related groups
- LOST & FOUND PETS: Bradley County, TN | Facebook
- LOST & FOUND PETS: Bradley County, Tennessee | Facebook
- LOST & FOUND PETS: Bradley, Polk, Meigs, McMinn and Hamilton Co Tennessee | Facebook

Use traditional methods of getting attention like flyering or continuing to do walk-thrus of the neighborhood with information. Post these in your neighborhood and then in key community locations, working outward from your home in the most-likely pattern. Don't give up and don't lose hope!



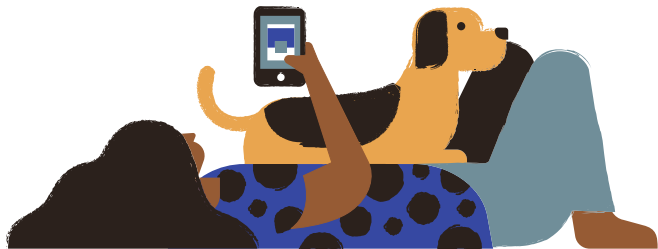
Preventative Measures

There are a few things you can do to both prevent your pet from becoming lost as well as being prepared if that should happen. Let's dive in:

- Have your pet wear a collar and up-to-date tags at all times. Even if microchipped this is the fastest way for them to get home when found.
- Get your pet microchipped! **We will microchip your animal for \$20, which includes lifetime registration!**
- If your pet is already microchipped, check to make sure it's properly registered and your contact information is up to date. Visit: <https://www.foundanimals.org/microchip-registry/owners/>
- Upload their photo to Finding Rover's database in the event they are lost. www.findingrover.com
- Keep them safe when you're not home by bringing them inside, using a crate, or whatever method of containment works best for you and the pet.
- Keep them safe when out and about by leashing dogs when out on walks, or by simply leaving pets home if the occasion calls for it.



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Using Social Media to Get Pets Home

Social media is widely-used, free, and at your fingertips, making it a perfect way to connect with the community and spread the word about a lost or found pet.

When you post on any social network to share a pet you've lost or found, try these quick tips for success:

- Tell a story. Sometimes a heartfelt story about your pet and your search, or tell a bit about what you've observed about the found pet and help get the post shared to other potential adopters.
- Be descriptive and share important basics (weight/size, age, preferences, etc).
- Choose your cutest / favorite photo. Grab attention and help show off their best side! Make sure it's a recent photo and accurately represents them. Also include photos of notable markings or how the pet looks from the profile as well as head-on
- Include your contact info or ask people to DM you. Make sure it's easy to see and easy to follow instructions for the best way to contact you.

Facebook

On Facebook you can not only share a link to other Lost/Found posts have made on external sites, you can also seek out facebook groups or local pet groups in your area to post about the pet. If you're a member of local community groups (church, social clubs, community service orgs) you can ask the admin of the group if you're allowed to post there as well.

Twitter or Instagram

If you're a regular user of either of these platforms, then definitely share your pet there and include hashtags like #lostdog #lostcat #lostandfound as well as hashtags for your local area or neighborhood to make sure you're zeroing in on the right audience.

Nextdoor

Nextdoor is a neighborhood or community based social network so really helps ensure you're posting to folks nearby. This is a critical resource for Lost and Found Pet posts because you can capture the attention of community members who might miss your post on other platforms.

Finding Rover

While not social media, this is technology that's incredibly useful for posting found pets (or registering your pet in case they get lost). Finding Rover uses facial recognition technology to help make more reunions possible.



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Local Networks & Community Connections

Consider other off-line connections you have to help get the word out. You never know who might be able to help! Teamwork makes the dreamwork:

- Friends
- Family members
- Neighbors
- Co-workers
- Community contacts
 - School
 - Church, Synagogue, House of worship
 - Membership groups
 - Community-based organizations

You can also make flyers -- using the same basic information you used in your online posts / description and a few great photos -- and post them in different locations around your community. Don't forget to post them first in areas very close to where the pet was lost or found, since it's likely the animal came from nearby.

- Veterinarian
- Pet supply store
- Feed Store
- Coffee Shop
- Restaurants / Diners
- Work, school or other community bulletin boards
- Parks or Community Centers
- Grocery Stores, gas stations and other common areas





Quick Reference Contact Sheet



1570 Johnson Boulevard SE
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www.spcabctn.org

