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## Finding a Lost Pet



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When your beloved dog or cat strays from home, it can be a traumatic experience for both of you. Here are some tips that we hope will help you find your pet.



### Pet Care

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- ✦ [Military Personnel: Making Arrangements for Your Pets](#)
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- **Contact local animal shelters and animal control agencies.** File a lost pet report with every shelter within a 60-mile radius of your home and visit the nearest shelters daily, if possible. If there is no shelter in your community, contact the local police department. Provide these agencies with an accurate description and a recent photograph of your pet. Notify the police if you believe your pet was stolen.
- **Search the neighborhood.** Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Ask neighbors, letter carriers, and delivery people if they have seen your pet. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and information on how you can be reached if your pet is found.
- **Advertise.** Post signs at grocery stores, community centers, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, and other locations. Also, place advertisements in newspapers and with radio stations. Include your pet's sex, age, weight, breed, color, and any special markings. When describing your pet, leave out one identifying characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.
- **Be wary of pet-recovery scams.** When talking to a stranger who claims to have found your pet, ask him to describe the pet thoroughly before you offer any information. If he does not include the identifying characteristic you left out of the advertisements, he may not really have your pet. Be particularly wary of people who insist that you give or wire them money for the return of your pet.

#### Want to learn more?

Get the Pets for Life e-newsletter.

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- [Our Prescription for Toxoplasmosis: Learn the Facts and Keep Your Family Together](#)
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- [Pregnancy and Toxoplasmosis](#)
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- [Protect Your Pet From Winter's Woes](#)
- [Providing for Your Pet's Future Without You](#)
- [Rabbit, Horse, and Other Pet Care](#)
- [Renting With Pets: The Online Resource for Rental Managers and Pet Owners](#)
- [Selecting the Right Pet for Your Kids and Making the Introduction](#)
- [Summer Care Tips for You and Your Pets](#)
- [What To Do When You Find a Stray Dog or Cat](#)
- [What You Can Do If You Are Having Trouble Affording Veterinary Care](#)
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- **Don't give up your search.** Animals who have been lost for months have been reunited with their owners.

A pet—even an indoor pet—has a better chance of being returned if she always wears a collar and an ID tag with your name, address, and telephone number.

Ask your local animal shelter or veterinarian if permanent methods of identification (such as microchips) are available in your area.

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