



P.O. Box 971
Danbury, CT 06813

www.daws.org

(203) 744-DAWS (3297)

Finding Your Lost Pet

SEARCH!

Start a foot search immediately. Check everywhere including spaces you do not think your animal could fit into. Bring along a flashlight to check in dark spaces. Also be sure to go out at night when the streets are quiet, call for your pet, and then listen for any response. Go for walks in places that may be familiar to your pet, as they may seek these out and stay there.

PROVIDE FAMILIAR SIGHTS, SMELLS, AND SOUNDS

Leave out food and water, as well as belongings with a familiar scent. For cats, empty the litter box frequently around the perimeter of the property. If your animal has a favorite treat or toy that makes noise, bring that along on your searches - animals have much better hearing than we do. You may also want to use a dog whistle; cats can hear these, too.

GET THE WORD OUT

Make flyers with a clear photo of your animal and a very detailed description and post in and around your neighborhood, at shelters, veterinarians, supermarkets, and anywhere there is a bulletin board (be sure that you get permission first - some places will take flyers down if you don't). Include the date lost, specific location, sex, name, etc. Also be sure to include a phone number and email address, but be careful about posting your full name and address. If you offer a reward, do not specify how much money. Using fluorescent paper will help raise visibility of the posters.

Contact all animal shelters, animal control offices, and veterinarians in the area. Give as specific a description as possible, and include a picture whenever you can. Remember - animals can travel and so can the people who find them. So just because a shelter or vet is not in

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your town does not mean it should not be contacted.
Be sure to also place an ad in the local papers.

GET HELP

Talk to your neighbors, joggers, mail delivery people, newspaper carriers, etc - anyone in the area. The more people that know about your missing pet the better. Also enlist them to help in your search if they are willing. Kids are also a great resource, so try to involve the neighborhood children (with their parents' permission) whenever possible. If you have recently moved, check your old neighborhood and talk with people there and post flyers.

Other things to remember:

It is important to remember that animals' personalities may change significantly when they become lost and disoriented - for example, a friendly and loving inside cat may become wild, almost feral, if it gets outdoors and may run from you. Patience is the key to catching these animals, and sometimes the use of a Have-A-Heart trap is needed. Talk to your local Animal Shelter about borrowing one, or purchase one on-line or at your local pet or agricultural supply store.

If you find someone who thinks they may have found your pet, but the description isn't exact, check it out anyway in person. People will rarely describe the same animal in the same way. Be sure to update posters, shelters, neighbors, etc. if some time has passed and you still have not found your pet. It is important for them to know that you are still searching.

If you find your pet, contact these same resources and let them know, and be sure to remove all posters.

Most important of all, don't give up hope!

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