

If You Have Lost Your Pet...

You must start searching for her or him immediately. The more you do and the sooner you do it, the better your chances are of finding him/her. Don't give up, many animals are returned weeks after being lost so KEEP LOOKING

HERE IS A LIST OF SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR SEARCH

1. If you think your pet is lost, **first search your home**. Even though we may think we know every nook and cranny, there are places where your pet could hide. Shake a treat jar or squeak a toy and see if this can lure them out.
2. **Call the microchip company** and alert them that your pet is lost. If someone finds your pet and calls to report it found, the microchip company should already be aware that he or she is lost. Confirm that the microchip company has your current contact information.
3. **Use social media** to get the word out that your pet is lost. By notifying your family and friends on social media, they can share the information which helps spread the word that your dog or cat is lost. Other important social media and websites for posting and searching for your lost pet include:
 - a. **Pet Harbor** www.petharbor.com, **Lost Dogs Illinois** www.lostdogsillinois.org, **Lost Cats of Illinois** www.facebook.com/lostcatsofillinois, **Lost Dogs of America** www.lostdogsofamerica.org, **www.1888pets911.org**, **Craig's List**, local newspapers (online and in print)
4. Go to the **Anti-Cruelty Society** (510 N LaSalle, Chicago, 312-644-8338), **Chicago Animal Care and Control** (2741 S Western Ave, Chicago, 312-747-1406), and **The Animal Welfare League** (6224 S. Wabash, Chicago, 773-667-0088). Make a thorough search of the kennels. Return every couple of days.
5. Most lost pets will be transported to CACC and photos of any animals taken in are posted online. Any dog who arrives at CACC without any identification – tags or microchip – will be made available for adoption after 3 full days at the shelter; while cats without ID will be processed as redemption to owner, adoption or transferred to a rescue immediately when they arrive at the shelter. Stray animals that are brought to The Anti-Cruelty Society are transported to an authorized holding facility (Chicago Animal Care and Control or The Animal Welfare League) for the legally mandated stray holding period. These animals may be transferred back at the completion of the stray hold. **Tree House** and **Harmony House** also take in stray cats. Be sure to contact them for lost cats as well.
6. **Visit every shelter often**. It's important that you visit every animal shelter in the area to look for your pet. It is necessary that you look for your pet in every shelter that holds strays because the description you give may not be the description another person would provide for that animal. For example, one person may describe the animal as being gray with white stripes and the next person may describe the animal as being black with cream stripes.
7. **Bring or send a photo and description** of your missing pet to all of the aforementioned shelters. Include your name, phone number, the animal's name and breed on the flyer. This will assist in matching your lost pet against reports of found animals brought to the shelter.
8. Also, **consider places your pet is familiar with** – i.e. daycare, veterinarian, groomer, etc. that they could have traveled to find comfort. Calling these places along with other shelters or area animal hospitals could help reunite you with your furry family member.
9. **Post flyers** in the area where your pet was lost. A sample sign is included in this folder. Make enough copies to cover the area. Post signs in grocery stores, vets, police stations, etc. In the digital age, this might seem unnecessary, but you would be surprised how many people will see those signs. Many people also take pictures of these signs and share on their own social media as well.
10. **Talk to neighbors**, mail carriers, neighborhood children, local business people. Carry flyers to hand to any of these people.