



## Lost Your Animal?

### Steps to Help you Find Your Animal and Bring it Home Safely

1. Contact your non-emergency police / sheriff **and** animal control to report that your animal has been lost. Verify who does animal control for your city and where animals are impounded. Be as specific as possible in your description, including breed, colors, special markings, age, gender, whether spay or neutered, where they were last seen and if they are wearing a collar with tags, or are tattooed or microchipped.
  2. Animals don't know city boundaries so contact surrounding communities and your county sheriff and do the same as step #1 above. Sometimes animals can be picked up by good Samaritans who transport them elsewhere. There are more than 30 impound facilities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
  3. Visit the facilities **IN PERSON**. Mistakes are easily made in identifying breeds and sexes. Most communities only require a 5-7 day holding period for strays and sometimes that includes weekends. Continue to call and go in often to check. Don't rely on these facilities to call you if your animal comes in.
  4. After the impound holding period, your animal may be rescued by a local rescue organization, given to a humane society, or euthanized, depending on where the animal is impounded and on its health and temperament.
  5. Post your lost animal on local "lost pets" web sites and keep checking the "found pets" postings.
  6. Post flyers and pictures in the area your animal was last seen; alert your neighbors to keep their eyes open. "Lost Pet" signs should be big, colorful and eye catching. Be sure to include the word "REWARD" in big letters to make everyone understand that this is important to you. Include a photo of your animal – if you don't have one, use the internet to find one that looks like your animal. Put the signs where the most people who live, work or regularly travel through your area will have a chance to slow down and see them.
- \* For dogs, how far they run is just a matter of how far their legs will carry them. Big, strong dogs, especially young ones, can run five plus miles. Small dogs may be able to go a mile. However, most dogs are recovered within a two-mile circle of their homes – no matter how strong or fast they are, they normally will not run for an extended period of time in a straight line.
- \* Cats rarely stray more than two or three blocks from home or cross busy streets, unless they are in heat or chased. Look for cats in the quiet early morning or late evening hours, and make sure to check out neighborhood garages. Canned food left outside your door can tempt a cat to come home. You may be able to borrow/rent a live trap from animal control, or you can purchase one at a store. If you set a trap, be sure to check it often.

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\* If your animal is outgoing, it will be looking for other dogs, cats or humans who are friendly and likely to comfort, feed and shelter it. Neighbors' yards and public parks are spots it may like. If it is a shy or older animal and not trusting of strangers, it will hide - in bushes, under cars, and in garages are good places to search.

**Don't Give Up!** Keep calling and looking because animals are successfully reunited with their owners weeks and even months after being lost!

### **Preventative Measures**

- \* Spay or neuter your animal! Altered animals are less likely to stray and are healthier.
- \* Order an ID tag. Include your address (city and state) and two phone numbers. Keep the tag on your animal at all times.
- \* Have your animal microchipped or tattooed.
- \* Make sure you have a current picture of your animal.
- \* Keep your animal inside. When a dog is outside, don't leave it loose, unless within a secure fenced yard.

### **Internet Sites for Lost and Found Animals**

When posting animals, be sure to include a picture and as many details as possible. There are many more places to post and look besides the ones below. Several impounds have websites and/or facebook pages now.

Lost Dogs MN - <https://www.facebook.com/LDoMN>  
Lost Cats MN - <https://www.facebook.com/LostCatsMinnesota>  
(You don't need a Facebook account to use the above sites)

Animal Humane Society - <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/search/lost-pets>  
(Also check their link to "strays in our care")

Craigslist for Minneapolis and St. Paul - <http://minneapolis.craigslist.org/>  
(Check the "pet" section and the "lost and found" section under "Community")

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control –  
<http://www.minneapolumn.gov/animals/lost/index.htm>

Nextdoor – <http://nextdoor.com> (post under "lost and found")

*This information was prepared by volunteers of Second Chance Animal Rescue™. Please freely reproduce and distribute. Second Chance Animal Rescue is a nonprofit, all volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to rescuing, caring for and adopting out homeless dogs and cats. [www.secondchancerescue.org](http://www.secondchancerescue.org)*