

Lost Your Pet?

- 1. Visit our Coyote Point Shelter at 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo as soon as possible.
- 2. Fill out a lost report. You cannot do this online or over the phone---it must be done in person during our regular business hours. Be sure to attach a photo of your pet to your lost report.
- **3.** A staff member will take you through the kennels to see if your pet is at the shelter.
- **4.** Check the Found Animals binder at the counter. This binder contains reports of found pets that people are keeping at their homes.
- 5. Check the DOA binder at the counter.
- **6.** If you have a lost cat, talk to the staff about renting a humane trap. This may be an option for helping to reunite you with your cat.
- 7. Come back to the shelter at least every four days to search for your pet, even if your pet was wearing ID at the time they went missing
- **8.** Consider visiting our Lantos Center at 1450 Rollins Road, Burlingame if your animal has been lost for more than four days. There is a chance your animal may be up for adoption.
- **9.** Post lost flyers around the area where your pet was last seen. It's generally recommended to post within at least a four-block radius. Distribute the flyers to local pet supply stores, veterinary hospitals, local stores, dog parks, etc.
- **10**. Use social media to get the word out: post on NextDoor, local Facebook groups, Pawboost, etc. There are many online options for posting lost animals.
- **11.** If you animal is microchipped or licensed, make sure your contact information is up to date with the shelter. Make sure the manufacturer of your pet's microchip has your current contact information in their registry. If have your pet's microchip number but aren't sure what brand of chip it is, start here: www.petmicrochiplookup.org.
- **12.** Speak to as many of your neighbors as possible to alert them to keep their eyes open for your pet.
- **13.** Don't lose hope! Lost animals have been reunited with their families using the above methods as quickly as a few hours to as long as a few years!

Lost Your Pet? Some Tips and Advice

- Do not rely too heavily on microchips or tags alone to bring your pet home. Every once in a while, microchips fail, and the information can't be read. Tags can be lost.
- Sometimes well-meaning people who find lost animals keep them in their homes without notifying the shelter or veterinary hospitals or posting them online. It's very important you speak with your neighbors and use social media that focuses on your neighborhood.
- If you believe your pet has been stolen, be sure to file a police report with your local police department.
- Sometimes a reward will help reunite you with your pet.
- Cats and dogs are very scent oriented. Leave an article of clothing, litterbox or pet bed outside to help reorient your pet back home.
- If you have recently moved, consider distributing flyers in your old neighborhood.
 Especially with cats, it's not unheard of for a cat to wander back to an old neighborhood, especially if you have a an indoor/outdoor cat.

FOR CATS:

- 1. Cats are often territorial. Chances are good that your lost cat is still nearby but is possibly hiding or trapped in someone's basement, garage or shed. Cats can hide for several weeks before returning home.
- 2. If you have an indoor/outdoor cat that has slowly stopped coming home, talk to your neighbors to see if any of them have been setting food out for feral cats. Even social cats sometimes find their way into a feral cat colony or just enjoy eating at different homes.
- **3.** Your indoor cat might be lost inside your home! Listen against walls, check your vents and chimney, under couch cushions, in the back of closets and behind appliances. These are all places cats have been discovered.
- **4.** Felines are more active during the evening. Search for your pet at dusk when the majority of them come out to hunt for food.

FOR DOGS:

- 1. Even the friendliest dogs can act aggressive or fearful when out of their element and confronted by a stranger. Some dogs have been known to wander for several miles before eventually stopping out of sheer exhaustion. It is only then that a stranger can approach a frightened dog.
- 2. Enlist the help of a "pet detective" if you're financially able to. Many of these professionals have trained dog trackers who can trace your pet's scent if they haven't been missing for very long.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Homeagain

www.homeagain.com

1-888-HOME AGAIN (1-888-466-3242)

Avid

www.avidid.com

1-800-3396-2843, ext 4

InfoPet

(for Trovan chips)

www.infopet.biz

1-952-890-2080

Pet Link

(National Registry for Microchips)

www.petlink.net

1-877-PET LINK

Missing Pet Partnership

(Non-profit organization dedicated to helping people locate their lost pets. Referreals to pet detectives also listed.)

www.lostapet.org

-LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUES -

PENINSULA

Palo Alto Animal Services

3281 E Bayshore Rd Palo Alto, Ca 94303 **650-496-5971**

San Francisco Animal Care and Control

1200 15th Street San Francisco, Ca 94103 415-554-6364

NORTH BAY

Marin Humane Society

171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd Novato, Ca 94949 **415-883-4621**

SOUTH BAY

San Jose Animal Care Center

2750 Monterey Rd San Jose, Ca 95111 **408-578-7297**

EAST BAY

Tri-City Animal Shelter

1950 Stevenson Blvd Fremont, Ca 94538 510-535-5603

Oakland City Animal Shelter

1101 29th Avenue Oakland, Ca 94604 510-535-5602

Hayward Animal Shelter

16 Barnes Ct Hayward, Ca 94544 **510-293-7200**