

I LOST AN ANIMAL

Notes for Shelter: Use language that inspires hope and promotes swift action on the part of the pet owner. Offering a message of encouragement is vital. Remind pet owners that animals are often found by Good Samaritans and not always taken to a shelter. It is not uncommon for weeks, and sometimes months, to go by before an animal and its family are reunited. Do not give up hope! Keep searching.

Action Items for Pet Owner:

- 1.** If your community is active on Nextdoor, immediately report the animal as missing so neighbors can be on the lookout

Note: Embed Nextdoor link and a link to the App Store.

- 2.** If the animal has a microchip, immediately contact your microchip registry or the place where you purchased the chip so that the animal can be flagged as lost. If the animal's chip information is unknown, contact the shelter or rescue where the animal was adopted for assistance. If the chip was implanted by a veterinarian, that information should be contained in the animal health records.

- 3.** Immediately file a lost animal form. Shelters post lost reports on their websites so they can be viewed by the public and reunited with their families

Note: Insert a link to your online Found Pet submission form, or instructions on how that can be done. Encourage pet owners to file missing pet reports with all area shelters.

- 4.** Search here (insert shelter's lost pet URL) for animals that may have been brought to the shelter.

Note: Include links to nearby shelters' "found pet" pages as well. Shelters are encouraged to publish found animal reports on their websites and encourage those who lost an animal to check frequently. Clearly detail instructions on what to do if their pet is spotted.

I LOST AN ANIMAL (cont...)

5. Register the animal with [Finding Rover](#) and report the animal as being lost. If already registered with Finding Rover, log into your account and report the animal as being lost. Other sites to consider also include [PetHarbor](#) and [PetFBI](#).
6. If the animal is wearing a rabies tag administered by a veterinarian, notify the veterinarian immediately that the animal is lost and give them your best contact information.
7. Visit your local shelters in person (if allowed).

Note: If the shelter is allowing walk-throughs, provide clear instructions on how and when this can be done; encourage frequent visits if possible. Also, include information on how to reclaim an animal that is found on the website. If a walk through is conducted with negative results, provide the customer with other resources and relevant information such as a tips guide for each species (some dogs are very approachable, others are not), a poster template and the possibility of renting a trap.

8. Post flyers with a photo of the missing pet and multiple methods to contact you if found. Use this [Free Found Pet Poster Template](#).

Note: Offer assistance in printing flyers at the shelter if needed, not everyone has a printer at home.

9. Walk the neighborhood. Talk to anyone who may have seen your pet, including U.S. Postal workers, delivery, landscapers, and others and alert them to the missing animal.