

Steps to Take if Your Pet Gets Lost

- Act fast! Don't waste days hoping your pet will come home. Search your neighborhood or the area where your pet was lost, and let people know it's missing. Call your pet's name and check any places it could be trapped, such as in garages, under vehicles and engine compartments. A lost pet often will hide during the day, so be sure to go out again at night with a flashlight and call for it. Sometimes a can of food can lure a hungry and scared pet to you. Borrow a humane trap and check regularly (ask about proper techniques).
- While out searching for your pet, is there a sound your pet loves to hear? Like the shaking of the treat box or a favorite squeak toy? If so, bring that item on the search and make a little noise. Remember to use a friendly voice when calling.
- Complete a "lost pet" report at your local animal shelter(s) and animal control authority immediately and visit in person **every day**. Some larger cities have more than one shelter, so be sure to contact all of them in your area (and any jurisdictions bordering where the pet was lost):

Anne Arundel County Animal Control

411 Maxwell Frye Rd.
Millersville MD 21108
(410) 222-8900

www.aacounty.org/animalcontrol

The SPCA of Anne Arundel County

1815 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis MD 21403
(410) 268-4388

www.aacspca.org

- If your pet is microchipped, ALERT your microchip company that your pet is lost and make sure your contact information is correct.
- Visit the Anne Arundel County Animal Control website to view found pets and post your lost pet at www.aacounty.org/animalcontrol.
- Make "lost pet" posters or flyers using your pet's current photo. Inform your local neighborhood, post offices, libraries, pet supply stores, veterinary clinics, groomers and grocery stores that your pet is lost in case someone brings the pet in. Give flyers to postal carriers, UPS and Fed Ex delivery people, and anyone else you know who gets around the neighborhood in their daily routines. Include your pet's name, your phone number and a short description of where and when your pet was last seen. Check where you posted your flyers to make sure they're still there and haven't been covered over or damaged by weather.
- Offer a reward, but don't specify an amount. If the reward is too low, people might not bother and if it's too high, they might think the pet is valuable and try to sell it.
- Use social media sites such as Facebook: Anne Arundel County Animal Control Facebook and Lost & Found Pets of Anne Arundel County.
- Watch the "found" ads in the newspaper and on the internet. Respond to any that are even close to your pet's description.
- Call your local radio stations. Some radio stations will broadcast lost pet information for free. Give them very detailed information on where your pet was lost, pet's description and how to contact you.
- Contact Dogs Finding Dogs www.dogsfindingdogs.com (they use search dogs to locate lost pets of all kinds).

