

LOST DOG



BREED/TYPE:

AGE:

SEX:

COLOR:

DESCRIPTION:

REWARD!

**PLEASE
CALL:**



**OR CALL THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA
(520) 327-6088**

HOW TO CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE SEARCH FOR YOUR LOST PET

A thorough and systematic search process will greatly increase your chances of finding your lost pet. The process is a difficult one both physically and emotionally, but as you know, the reward of a happy reunion is well worth the effort.

Begin your search immediately

Any delay – whether a few minutes, an hour or a day – can make a big difference. Walk quickly through your neighborhood (or in the area where the pet was lost) loudly calling the animal by name. Don't be shy about doing this! If your pet responds to a familiar whistle or sound, use it! Plan to spend a few hours on your initial search.

Recruit others to assist you

Ask family members, friends and neighbors to help. Make sure they call the pet by name, as it will be more likely to respond if it recognizes the person's voice. For this stage of your search, avoid using people that the pet fears or does not like.

Visit every house in the area

Retrace your steps through the neighborhood or area where the pet was lost. This time, go door to door. Make sure you take a recent photograph of the pet to show everyone you contact. Leave your telephone number and ask each person to contact you immediately if your pet is seen in the area. Tell each person whether the pet is friendly with strangers and whether it can be safely approached.

Call the Humane Society at 327-6088

Call to file a lost report, and make a personal trip to the Humane Society shelter at 3450 N. Kelvin Blvd. as soon as possible. Look at all of the found animals; ask staff about viewing animals in outside kennels. Check the Adoption areas as well.

Repeat your search at least every other day. The Humane Society holds strays without identification for 72 hours; microchipped animals are held five days; dogs with a current county license are held seven days.

The shelter staff will make every effort to match your report to incoming strays and to found reports. If a match appears likely, the staff will attempt to reach you by phone. Do not rely too heavily on this process, however; the volume of animals handled and differences in descriptions and markings may make it difficult to match some animals with their owners. It is your responsibility as a pet owner to do all you can to locate your own pet.

Call Pima Animal Care Center at 243-5900

Ask the staff to check their files for your lost pet. As soon as possible, go to Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) at 4000 North Silverbell Road to look for the animal in person. Do NOT rely on information that you receive over the telephone. The staff does not have time to physically check each individual animal for special markings.

PACC maintains an information file on animals received at the Center. They do not have a general "lost and found" service. When you visit the shelter, look at all of the animals in the holding kennels, sick bay kennels, and adoption kennels. Ask PACC staff if there are any other areas where your pet might be held. Ask to see the "DOA" records on animals that had been hit by cars, etc. Repeat your search at least every other day, if possible.

Prepare a Lost Dog or Lost Cat poster

You are welcome to use our blank poster format as an original, describing your pet in detail and attaching a recent photo. Do NOT use the animal's breed as the only description; many people are not familiar with breeds. Provide two telephone numbers (day/evening; home/work; yours/neighbors; etc.) Do NOT put

TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF YOUR PET:

- A well-fitting collar with identification, including a Pima County license for dogs, is one of the best ways to help your lost pet be returned to you.
- Additional methods of identification include ID microchipping and tattooing.
- A spayed or neutered cat or dog is more content and far less likely to roam.
- Obedience training will help make your dog a good canine citizen. It also provides a positive outlet for your dog's energy.
- If your dog tries to get out of the yard while you are at work, consider indoor "crate training" so that it may have a secure place to stay. Leave a radio or TV on to keep the dog company.
- Prepare a file of your pet's information to be used in an emergency. Include an accurate description and several good, clear color photos; updated from time to time. Also include the names and phone numbers of your vet and friends/relatives to contact if the pet should get lost. Be sure to instruct housesitters, babysitters, etc. on immediate steps to take if the pet is lost or injured.

your name or your pet's name on the poster. Do NOT place a monetary value on the pet or indicate if it is pedigreed or registered. DO offer a reward, if possible. (It is not necessary to specify the amount of the reward.)

Make copies of your poster and post them throughout the area – on every street corner, at bus stops, gas stations, laundromats, apartment complexes, etc., within a three- to five-mile radius. If there are schools in the area, be sure to place your poster near them. Children are very effective at spotting stray animals.

Send a poster to every veterinary clinic and grooming shop in the area. Be sure to notify the emergency clinics, as your pet may have been taken to one if it were injured.

Place a Lost Animal Ad in the daily newspapers

Call Tucson Newspapers, Inc., at 573-4343 to place a lost animal ad in the classified section of the Citizen and Star. Describe your pet as specifically as possible. Do NOT indicate a monetary value for your pet, or describe it as valuable or pedigreed. Do NOT give the pet's name. If possible, offer a reward for the return of the pet. Provide two phone numbers in your ad. Run the ad for at least two weeks, and be sure to check the "Found" ads on a daily basis. Respond to any possibilities, no matter how remote, as soon as possible.

Check the "FOUND!" website at www.found-pets.org for photos of animals turned in to local animal shelters each day. Conduct an internet search for "Tucson Lost Pets" to find other online lost and found pet listings.

Follow up on responses immediately

Arrange to see any pet that could be yours as soon as possible; the finder may not wish to hold the animal for long. Do NOT expect the finder to deliver the pet to you. It is important to use caution when arranging to meet someone who may have your pet. Don't go alone unless absolutely necessary. If you must go alone, try to meet in a public place, or tell a friend or family member when and where you are going. Make sure you identify the animal as your pet and have it in your custody before you turn over any reward money!

Don't give up easily!

Searching for a lost pet can be a heartbreaking, time-consuming process, but take heart – many missing animals have been found a month or even more after their disappearance. Sometimes, through no fault of your own, the efforts are futile. Just do the best you can to find your missing pet.