What To Do When You've Lost Your Pet...

TYPES OF IDENTIFICATION

Never underestimate the value of the dog tag! It is the single most important thing you can do to insure that your pet can be identified and returned home. It is cheap, and readily available.

Microchip! It is a permanent means of identification, so your pet will never lose it! In addition, if properly registered, it is proof that you are the owner of the animal.

PLACING ADS IN PUBLICATIONS *(craigslist, local and city-wide newspapers, online ads)*

The most effective listings for a lost animal give the following information:

- **Where the animal was lost:** City and street name, with cross streets.

- **When the animal was lost:** Date and a general time of day, if known.

- **A description of the animal, including color and markings:**
  Name, age, approximate size and/or weight and sex. Giving a breed or species name is not enough. Be specific with unusual markings, and mention if the animal was wearing tags or a microchip.

- **Contact Information:** You must include contact information:
  Name, phone number, and email are strongly suggested.

- **Other information:**
  The circumstances of how your animal was lost can be helpful, for instance, if your dog was frightened by fireworks, he may have spent quite a while running. If you are offering a reward, this is where it would be mentioned.

CREATING A FLYER

You don't need anything fancy to get the word out about your lost pet! Grab a piece of paper and a marker, and get to work! All you really need is:

- A clear, recent photo of your pet;

- A phone number where someone will answer calls, or there is an answering machine;

- THAT'S IT!

Remember, creating a flyer is just a small part of your efforts to locate your lost pet. Now, the work begins!

PET RECOVERY SERVICES
These companies specialize in locating lost pets, sometimes for a fee.

AMBER ALERT FOR PETS
www.petamberalert.com

INTERNATIONAL K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE FOR PEOPLE AND PETS
www.k9sardog.com

DISTRIBUTING FLYERS

Flyers can be posted in local pet shops, shelters, grooming businesses, veterinarians, or any other pet friendly place (with permission from the business owner). Hand them out to people in the neighborhood who regularly walk the area.

Although finding a lost animal often seems to depend on luck, it is luck you can help make.

- ✓ **Knock on doors and talk to people in the neighborhood.**
- ✓ **Hand out flyers with your pet's picture on them and your contact information.**
- ✓ **Go to <u>all</u> local shelters and government agencies charged with picking up stray and lost animals and look for yourself, at least every other day, even if your pet has tags.**

<u>**GO TO the shelters—don't just call!**</u> Your pet may not yet be listed in the records at the front desk, and the way you describe your pet may not be the way a shelter describes your dog. Sometimes it takes more than a few days for a pet to be picked up and brought to a shelter. Check the shelter's website—many post photos of animals brought in.

It's important to visit all the shelters within 20 miles of where your pet was lost. If someone took your pet in for a few days hoping you would knock on their door and ask about it, they might later drop your pet off at the shelter that's most convenient for them, rather the one that's closest.

Finding Rover Finding Rover is a free app that uses facial recognition to reunite lost dogs and their owners. By uploading a photograph of your dog's face, the system will notify everyone in the community that has the app to keep an eye out for your lost dog and will also check the photographs of dogs at local participating shelter (including the three Department shelters). For more information, check out www.findingrover.com. **<u>AND DON'T GIVE UP!</u>**

AREA SHELTERS TO CHECK:

County of San Diego Department of Animal Services	Humane Societies	Municipal Shelters
☐ 2481 Palomar Airport Road Carlsbad, CA 92011 (619) 767-2675 ☐ 5480 Gaines Street San Diego, CA 92110 (619) 767-2675 ☐ 5821 Sweetwater Road Bonita, CA 91902 (619) 767-2675 <u>County Shelter Hours & Website</u> Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays and County holidays www.sddac.com <u>Service Areas</u> All unincorporated communities of San Diego County and the Cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, San Diego, Santee, and Solana Beach	☐ **San Diego Humane Society and SPCA** www.sdhumane.org ▷ **San Diego Campus** 5500 Gaines Street San Diego, CA 92110 (619) 299-7012 ▷ **Escondido Campus** 3450 E. Valley Parkway Escondido, CA 92027 (760) 888-2275 ▷ **Oceanside Campus** 2905 San Luis Rey Rd (dogs) 572 Airport Road (cats, small animals) Oceanside, CA 92058 (760) 757-4357 ☐ **Rancho Coastal Humane Society** www.sdpets.org 389 Requeza St. Encinitas, CA 92024 (760) 753-6413	☐ **City of Chula Vista** **Chula Vista Animal Care Facility** National City/ Imperial Beach/ Lemon Grove www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us 130 Beyer Way Chula Vista, CA 91911 (619) 691-5123 ☐ **City of El Cajon** **El Cajon Animal Control Services** www.ci.el-cajon.ca.us 1275 North Marshall Avenue El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 441-1580 ☐ **City of Coronado** **Coronado Animal Care Facility** www.coronado.ca.us 1395 First St. Coronado, CA 92118 (619) 522-7371

COUNTY SHELTER MICROCHIP CLINICS

<u>EVERY THURSDAY (1-3 pm)</u> at all three County shelters

- ✦ *Microchipping $10* ✦ *Rabies vaccination $10* ✦ *No appointment necessary*
- ✦ *Dogs must be on a leash, and cats and rabbits must be in a secure carrier;*
- ✦ *Dogs four months of age and older must be currently licensed by San Diego County, or the jurisdiction in which they reside.*

MICROCHIP ME!