



My pet is missing! What should I do?

When a pet goes missing it can be a scary and frustrating time for both of you. Use these tips to help bring your pet back home as soon as possible.

- * **Visit your local animal control organization *at least every 3 days***
 - Pinellas County Animal Services (727) 582-2600
 - Pasco County Animal Services (727) 834-3216
 - Hillsborough County Animal Services (813) 744-5660
- * **File a lost report with local humane organizations**
 - Humane Society of Pinellas (Clearwater) (727) 797-7722
 - SPCA Tampa Bay (Largo) (727) 586-3591
 - Suncoast Animal League (Palm Harbor) (727) 786-1330
 - SPCA Suncoast (New Port Richey) (727) 849-1048
 - Humane Society of Tampa Bay (Tampa) (813) 876-7138
- * **Advertise.** Post flyers near your home and near where the pet was lost. Post the flyers at pet stores, grocery stores, community centers, veterinary offices, traffic intersections and anywhere else someone who finds your pet might see it.
- * **Search your neighborhood.** Walk or drive through your neighborhood and the location the pet was last seen several times each day, particularly at dawn and dusk. Ask neighbors and neighborhood kids, letter carriers and delivery people if they have seen your pet. Give them a copy of your flyer. Your pet may be scared, so be sure to carefully check potential hiding places, such as under bushes and around storage sheds.
- * **Use the internet.** The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office operates a lost and found pet website at pcsoweb.com/cares. You may also post your lost pet on petfinder.com, pets911.com, petharbor.com, and craigslist.com.
- * **Check the classifieds.** The Tampa Tribune (813) 259-7500 and St. Petersburg Times (877) 321-7355 print found pet ads for free.
- * **Watch out for pet-recovery scams.** When talking to a stranger who claims to have found your pet, ask him to describe the pet thoroughly before you offer any information. Be especially wary of anyone who asks you to send or wire money before returning the pet.
- * **Don't give up your search.** Update your lost reports periodically with the shelters and online. Some animals have been reunited with their families months later!

When your pet comes home, it is a good idea to bring her to the vet for a quick check up. Cancel your lost pet listings, and make sure your pet is wearing proper ID in case she goes missing again. Pets (even indoor pets) have a much better chance of making it back home if they always wear a collar and an ID tag with your address and telephone number, and have a microchip or other form of permanent identification. The Humane Society of Pinellas offers low-cost microchip clinics several times per year. Call (727) 797-7722 for more information.