

Tips for Advertising a Lost Pet

- It is a good idea NOT to put your pet's name in the ad – that could give an unscrupulous person control over your pet. It's also recommended that you not put your pet's name on his or her ID tag for the same reason.
- For your safety, don't put your home address in the ad. List the name of your street and/or the vicinity in which your pet was lost. Include landmarks and cross streets so people in that area can be on the lookout.
- Be sure you include a clear current photo and a description of your pet on your flyers or posters. If possible, offer a reward to get more attention. Don't forget to put your phone number on any flyers or posters (but not your address). If someone calls, have them describe your pet including details such as type/color of their collar to avoid scams.
- Post flyers at animal shelters, veterinarians, groomers, trainers, pet stores, gas stations, restaurants and grocery stores. (Make sure you ask permission to post the signs and remove them when your pet is found.)

Tips for Finding a Lost Pet

- Thoroughly search your property and neighborhood on foot calling your pet's name. Be sure to check under porches, in and under vehicles, in sheds and garages, drainage pipes and any other possible hiding places. Don't forget to check surrounding streets as well. Dogs, especially, can cover ground quickly if they are chasing something.
- Go door to door. Take a picture of your pet with you. Enlist help from your animal loving neighbors.
- Go to your local shelter as soon as possible. Some agencies do not have the manpower to post lost/found pet listings quickly. Visit the shelter, bring a current picture of your pet, and provide them with an accurate description. Check back at least every other day. If you live near a neighboring town or county, check their shelter as well.
- Leave items with a familiar scent outside your home. These items can attract a pet that may have become disoriented.
- Don't give up! Animals that have been lost for months or even years have been reunited with their owners.

What to Do if You Find a Lost Pet

- Don't assume the animal has been abandoned. It's entirely possible that the animal on your doorstep has a family who loves them and is searching for them.
- If an animal is wandering the streets try to get them to safety as quickly as possible while not putting yourself in danger. It just takes seconds for a cat or dog to be hit by a car.
- Look for Identification. An ID tag could lead you directly to the owner. Rabies tags and county license tags may have traceable numbers.
- If there are no identification tags take the animal to a veterinarian's office or shelter that has a microchip scanning device to check for a microchip. Also look for tattoos.
- If you are unable to keep the animal at your home while you try to locate an owner, you can turn the animal over to a shelter or humane society. They will hold the animal as required by law
- Contact shelters and humane societies and report the animal to them. Many have simple online forms you can complete. If you wish to foster the animal ask them if you may do so. In some cases this is allowable.
- Ask people in the neighborhood if they know who owns the animal.

Keep in mind that Forsyth County law requires the reporting of found dogs and cats. The Animal Services website Lost & Found section is the official Lost & Found site identified in FCC 6-19 Found domestic animals; Reporting and/or registration.

In addition to posting on the Animal Services page, there are many social media sites which allow posting of lost or found pets. Search Facebook for groups in your area. Most allow photos to be posted and many members will share your post to spread the word. Craigslist and other online marketplaces often have lost/found pet sections as well.

Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Animal Services Division
(336) 703-2480

Shelter Hours
Tuesday – Saturday
10 am – 6 pm
Closed Sunday, Monday, and Holidays.

Lost and Found Pets



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