

FACTS ABOUT LOST ANIMALS



- LOST cats and dogs enter **The Maryland SPCA**, but few are reunited with their families.
- Dogs are luckier than cats when it comes to being reunited mainly because they have identification.
- In 2007, **The Maryland SPCA** received over 1100 lost animals.
- **The Maryland SPCA** takes lost & found reports on the phone or over the Internet and works to match these reports.
- We also take lost and found animals into our facility in the hope that their owners will come and claim them.
- We hold LOST/FOUND animals for 3-5 days unless the animal is severely injured or vicious.
- After 3 days, we will spay/neuter and put up for adoption dogs or cats that are adoptable. If a dog or cat is deemed "unadoptable," then we hold it for 5 days before euthanizing it.
- The #2 way animals enter people's lives is from being found.

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THE MARYLAND SPCA

FOUND A LOST PET?

WONDERING WHAT TO DO?



You can partner with us to bring about a happy ending.



REUNITING A LOST OR FOUND ANIMAL WITH HIS FAMILY

Leaving a dog or cat at a shelter is one way to reunite a pet, but it isn't always the best option, especially if the animal is not a good candidate for the shelter's adoption program.

You can hold on to the pet, file lost/found reports with multiple shelters/agencies, and poster the neighborhood where you found the animal. Remember, phone daily and speak to a person—don't leave a message—to see if there is a match to the report.

Putting posters in the area the animal was found increases the chances of a happy ending for the dog/cat.

YOU CAN HELP RE-HOME THE ANIMAL.

This approach helps for a few reasons: It keeps an animal out of a shelter—urban shelters receive thousands of animals a year, too many to be adopted out; it provides the animal with love and companionship, and you gain insights into his personality; and it doesn't displace the animal from the area he was lost/found.

Cats that are relocated to shelters tend not to be found because people don't think someone carried the pet out of the area.



TO FIND AN OWNER

- Place flyers/posters in area shopping centers around where you found the pet. Go out about 2 miles or 10 blocks.
- Talk to neighbors, letter carriers, and paper delivery people to see if they recognize the animal or have seen "lost" flyers that match the animal you found.
- Contact animal control agencies to file a report.
- Contact area veterinary hospitals to see if they have any matching reports.
- Place an ad in the local paper describing the area where you found the animal. Save some information for the owner to use to identify the animal.
- Take the animal to a veterinarian or shelter to scan for microchips. A microchip is a secondary method of identification.

LOST CATS

Animal behaviorists say that the personality of the cat can indicate how he behaves when lost.

Shy or fearful cats tend to hide very close to their homes and can be coaxed to return with left out food. These cats tend to be very quiet and don't meow.

Curious cats tend to wander. These are the types of cats that greet strangers and aren't frightened of new things. They can travel over 5 blocks and may be seen at neighbors' doors looking for food. These cats tend to be a bit loud.

LOST DOGS

Lost dogs call people to action. If the dog is friendly and you feel comfortable spending time looking for the owner, it may lead to a quick reunion.

Note: You don't know the dog, and he shouldn't be left alone with your children or other pets until you are 100% sure he is safe.

IF YOU THINK YOU MAY WANT TO KEEP THE LOST ANIMAL YOU FOUND...

Take the time to find his owners or to re-home him. We will help with the lost reports and matching the pet with any possible matches. **Once you surrender the lost animal to us, we can not return him to you.** If he makes it into our adoption program, you may adopt him.

ANIMALS ARE PROPERTY

In Baltimore City, you become an animal's caretaker the moment you feed him, take him into your home, or provide care.

After 3 days you are the "owner" of that animal.

Thank you for partnering to help the animals in our community.

If you need any more information, please call 410-235-8826

