



Pawsitive Pointers

Lost or Found A Pet?

The good news is that 85% of lost dogs and cats are reunited with their owners.

Here are some tips to help you if you've lost (or found) a pet.

Preventative Measures

Studies show that the two most important things you can do to boost your chances of being reunited with your furry friend are:

1. Have your pet wear an ID tag with your contact info, and
2. Microchip your pet

There is a new option too:  **petco love lost**
REUNITING PETS

Petco Love Lost, formerly Finding Rover, is a national database of animals. As a preventative measure, registering your pet in this system ensures you have good pictures of your pet to help people, and shelters using the Petco Love system, identify you as Fido's owner. To register your pet go to:

www.petcolovelost.org

Don't forget, with all of three of these options, if you move or change your phone number, you'll want to update your info!

They're Missing or You've Found a Pet – Now What?

Below is a checklist of actions you can take:

Notify SCRAPS

SCRAPS is legally responsible for lost/stray pets. If you find a pet that you cannot hold at your home, take it to SCRAPS at 6815 E. Trent Rd., Spokane Valley, WA. Their phone number is: (509) 477-2531. (Please note: SpokAnimal cannot accept stray pets.) If it is after business hours and you can't hold a found pet, call STAHR (Short Term After Hours Rescue) at (509) 207-7984.

Check www.Lost.PetcoLove.org

Post a photo and search in Lost Pet 101 or Found Pet 101.

Love Lost uses AI facial recognition to show you all missing pets with traits similar to yours. The system quickly disseminates news of your missing/found pet out to a large audience and allows you to access any potential posts from someone who may have lost/found the pet, simply by posting a photo. It is a great option for pets that have gotten lost on a trip, but the owners have had to return home.

Use social media!

- Post to your personal Facebook page, make it shareable.
- Post to Spokane Area Lost and Found Pets
- Post to the community Facebook pages/groups associated with your location (e.g.: Being neighborly Spokane Valley, Spokane Neighbors, Liberty Lake Community, etc)

Continued....

They're Missing or You've Found a Pet – Now What? (continued)

- Enlist help from K9 Tracking and Recovery (for lost dogs)**
This is a group of volunteers that will help find lost or stolen canines. The group can be emailed at k9trackingandrecoveru@gmail.com. More details can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/K9TrackingandRecoverySpokaneWA>.
- Use NextDoor app**
 - Post in General and Lost and Found
 - Share to your neighborhood and nearby neighborhoods
- Use Craig's List and other classified ads**
Online and print classifieds are another way to spread the word about lost or found pets.
- Check microchip information**
If your microchipped pet is lost, contact the microchip company and make sure your information is up to date. If you've found a pet, take it to a nearby shelter or veterinary clinic to be scanned for a microchip.
- Make a flyer**
Include a clear picture of the pet, a detailed description with any distinguishing marks, the date your pet was lost/found, the general area they went missing or were found, and your contact information. Put up flyers around you neighborhood, at nearby veterinary clinics, at local shelters, at animal control, and at any nearby businesses with a community bulletin boards. When your pet is found, or after a month, please remember to take these flyers down.

Tips for Looking for Cats

1. The best time to search for a cat is around 2:00a.m. Go out with a flashlight and food. Open a can or two of food. (Enterprising cat owners have even recorded the sound of a cat food can being opened so they can play the tape over and over while looking for the cat.)
2. Ask neighbors if you (or they) can check their garage, shed, under decks, and in small nooks or shrubbery. Cats can get into small spots and go unobserved!
3. Don't forget to look up! Cats can, and do, hide in trees and on roofs.
4. Place your cat's litter box outside. Cats have sensitive sniffers and can be lured home by the familiar scent. (We don't recommend leaving food outside as it can attract critters like raccoons!)

A Final Note

If you've found a pet, please ask for proof of ownership before returning it to someone seeking to claim it! This proof can be something as simple as the pet's photo on the owner's phone.



This information is leveraged from information published by WA State DOH, Petco Love Lost, Certapet.com, and Dictionary.com. This information should not be considered an endorsement of any group, agency or product.

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