If You've Lost Your Pet

If you have lost your animal, act quickly! 24 hours can make a big difference in your ability to recover your animal. Below are some steps to take when searching for your animal:

Search your neighborhood:
Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Ask neighbors, letter carriers, and delivery people if they have seen your pet. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and information on how you can be reached if your pet is found.

How Pittsylvania Pet Center can help?
In addition, **please come to, or call, the Pittsylvania Pet Center to fill out a lost animal report** and search our stray kennels for your animal. Pittsylvania County Animal Control brings all of the animals they catch directly to the shelter. Every animal that is brought in as a stray has their picture posted on our Facebook page with where they are found. Due to the high volume of incoming pets and "missing pet reports" we cannot be held responsible for finding your pet. We will try what is in our capability to help. We recommend that you visit the Pet Center every four to five days and watch the website for any new animals. This will allow you to see all of the missing pets that have been brought into our center. If your pet is still missing after 30 days, you should call and re-submit a missing animal report.

We do not know what Animal Control has picked up until the animal reaches the shelter. You may, however, try calling Animal Control (434-432-7937) to see if they have picked up an animal near you.

Remember that animals with identifying information stand a better chance of being reunited with their families when lost. Always have your pet wear a collar with an ID tag, or ask about permanent identification via microchipping. All animals adopted through PPC are permanently microchipped!

Reach out:
Contact local emergency clinics and vet clinics in case your pet has been injured and was taken somewhere other than animal control. File lost reports with nearby county shelters and rescue groups and, if your pet is microchipped, be sure to put in a lost report with the chip company. You can visit our Local Veterinaries (can you hyperlink our Local Veterinaries Tab Here) for information about local vets and check our Local Area Rescue Group / Animal Control (can you hyperlink our Local Area Rescue Group / Animal Control Tab Here) for more information about local rescues and local Animal Control.

Advertise in person:
Post flyers around the area that you lost your animal and within any distance you think the animal may have traveled; as well as grocery stores, community centers, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, pet supply stores, and other locations. Also, place advertisements in newspapers and with radio stations. Include your pet's sex, age, weight, breed, color, and any special markings. When describing your pet, leave out at least one identifying characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.

Advertise online:
 Several sites exist for networking lost animals' descriptions and pictures. Try posting on the following sites:
• Craigslist.org: Make a detailed post, including a picture, under the "Lost & Found" and "Pets" sections.
• Facebook.com: Post under lost/found animals and have friends share your post.
• Nextdoor.com: Create a "Lost" post to share with neighbors.
• The Center for Lost Pets
• Fido Finder
• HelpingLostPets.com: National Lost/Found Pet registry that is FREE to use. When a pet is listed, email/text alerts are sent to members in the area and you can create a flyer from your listing.
• Lost Pet USA

If You've Found an Animal

Search the area:
Walk or drive through the area you found the animal. Ask neighbors, letter carriers, and delivery people if they know who the animal might belong to.

Check for a chip:
 Take the animal to a nearby veterinary clinic, shelter, or animal control office to be scanned for a microchip.

If you found an animal in Pittsylvania County:
Please call Pittsylvania County Animal Control at 434-432-7937 if you need a stray animal trapped or picked up. If you have caught a stray animal, please bring it to the shelter during business hours. If you are willing to hold onto the animal for a few days call the shelter and place a found animal report.

If you found an animal in another county/city:
Please call the appropriate Animal Control agency. If you have found an animal in another county, contact that counties Shelter, Animal Control, Etc. Taking the Pet to another shelter that was not that county can prevent an Owner and Pet from reuniting. Check out Local Veterinaries (can you hyperlink our Local Veterinaries Tab Here) for Vet information and check our Local Area Rescue Group / Animal Control (can you hyperlink our Local Area Rescue Group / Animal Control Tab Here) for more information about local rescues and local Animal Controls.

Advertise in person:
Post flyers around the area that the animal was found and within any distance you think the animal may have traveled; as well as grocery stores, community centers, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, pet supply stores, and other locations. Also, place advertisements in newspapers and with radio stations. Include the animal's sex, breed, color, and any special markings. When describing the animal, leave out at least one identifying characteristic and ask the person who attempts to claim the animal to describe it.

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• Facebook.com: Post under any pages dedicated to lost/found animals and have friends share your post.
Examples of local pages
• Nextdoor.com: Create a "Found" post to share with neighbors.
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• Fido Finder
• Lost Pet USA