

We don't ever want to think about the dreaded day we realize our pet might be lost. Here at Mueller Pet Medical Center we take animal safety seriously, so much so that we have created this handout to help educate pet owners. Please read through this handout, be diligent about confining your pet, update your information regularly and follow the steps listed below to keep your pet safe. Getting your pet microchipped is one of the best and fastest ways to get your pet back when lost.

Before a pet is lost:

- 1) Microchip your pet as soon as your Veterinarian approves
- 2) Keep all of your info updated with the microchip company, your Veterinarian's office and on your City or County License
- 3) Take pictures of your pet frequently so you have a current image just in case
- 4) Take pictures of any significant or unique markings (finders will often ask you to describe these marks as a form of identification)
- 5) Make sure your pet has a collar or harness on with updated information
- 6) Socialize your pet. A pet that growls, snaps or is terrified of people is more likely to be thought of as a "street stray" and less likely to be picked up by a Good Samaritan.
- 7) Check your fence/screens regularly
- 8) Make sure meter readers, pest control workers and anyone else who may access your yard is aware there are pets and it is important they re-lock your gates

Even though we are diligent in closing our doors and locking our gates, things happen, pets get out. This is one of the scariest moments for any pet owner. The most important thing is to not panic. We hope the steps and information listed below will give you the necessary steps to bring your pet home safely.

When a pet is lost:

- 1) First call all of the area shelter and give them a description of your pet, the area your pet was lost in and the best number to reach you.
 - a. Sacramento City Animal Control – 311
 - b. Sacramento County Animal Control - (916) 368-7387 (PETS)
 - c. Elk Grove Animal Services - (916) 687-3023
 - d. Rancho Cordova Animal Services - (916) 851-8852
 - e. Sacramento SPCA - (916) 383-7387
 - f. Placer SPCA – (916) 782-7722
 - g. Placer County Animal Control – (530) 886-5500
 - h. Yolo County Animal Services- (916) 375-6492
- 2) If your pet is micro-chipped, call the company and let them know your pet is lost. Confirm that they have the correct contact information for you and an emergency contact in case they can't get through to you.
- 3) Next get out and scour the area your pet was lost in. Talk to anyone you see, people out doing yard work, mail carriers and delivery staff etc. Taking a picture with you may help. If

your pet does not have your phone number on their tags, give your number to people who might spot your pet running around.

- a. If your pet responds to a sound (shaking food bag, certain whistle, etc.) step outside and try this first in case they are close by. Repeat these sounds as you search
 - b. Really scared pets tend to find cover and hide, more social pets can sometimes be located at close-by parks.
 - c. If there are places you go regularly with your pet close-by (i.e. a park, coffee shop or friend's house) stop by and let everyone know to keep a look out.
- 4) Call your veterinary hospital and let them know your pet is missing.
 - 5) If possible, while you are out looking, have a friend or family member make a flier or make one if you are unable to locate your pet within the first few hours.
 - 6) Post the flier up all over the area where the pet was lost, drop a copy of the flier off at the area shelters.
 - 7) Post a lost ad on Craigslist, re-post as often as they will allow (daily)
 - 8) Post a lost ad in the area newspaper
 - 9) Visit the area shelters daily, have friends go if you are unable. Some pets will end up in a shelter weeks after they were lost.

After you find your pet:

- 1) If your pet is not micro-chipped, get them chipped immediately
- 2) Have your pet examined by a Veterinarian, a lot of things can happen in a short period of time. It is better to be safe than sorry.
- 3) If your information was not up to date on the tags, make sure it is updated.
- 4) If you can find out how your pet escaped, and it is fixable – repair it immediately. Many pets will run right back to the same hole in the fence or tear in the screen upon returning home.
- 5) If your gate was left open by a service worker – contact the company and put a sign on the gate reminding them to close the gate. You can also purchase self closing spring hinges that prevent the gate from being able to stay open
- 6) Remove all posted fliers
- 7) Get to know your pets behaviors that may have led to their getting lost, if you have a runner that takes off past you through the door, work on verbal obedience commands etc.

We are always here and ready to assist you in any way needed. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact us regarding your pet 24 hours a day.