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# LOST or FOUND A PET?

## FOUND A PET?

1. Call your local Animal Control facilities & file a FOUND report over the phone. (Dial 311 in Mecklenburg County). You have to do this by law in case the owner is looking for the animal. If you don't report that you have found the animal then the owner will have no way of finding his pet. You should also bring, fax or email a flyer of the animal to the Animal Control facility so they can post it on the bulletin board in their lobby.
2. If the Charlotte 311 operators will not take a report over the phone, you can still report the animal as Found by going to the [www.petharbor.com](http://www.petharbor.com) site and post a report here.
3. Call your local newspapers & place a FOUND ad. The best place to look for Charlotte Observer ads is on their web site. Check their site frequently for LOST ads at: [www.charlotteobserver.com](http://www.charlotteobserver.com) (click Classified, Lost & Found) They keep ads posted online for 2 weeks. You can even call the classified department & ask if they had run a LOST ad for a particular animal prior to 2 weeks ago. Be sure to include the following info in your ad: exactly where & when pet was found (neighborhood, street, date, etc...), gender, breed, coloring, collar, declawed, etc...Always leave out one distinguishing thing about the animal so you know for sure if the real owner is calling. If the owner does call, have them provide a photo &/or vet records.
4. Post a free FOUND ad on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) under the CLASSIFIED section. These ads expire after 14 days & you can repost them for free. (Include same info as paragraph above.)
5. Post a large black & white flyer on stop signs in all surrounding neighborhoods as well as on bulletin boards in nearby grocery stores, gas stations, etc... (Be brief & type LARGE!) People can't read small print from their car. It would be great if you could use a large neon posterboard as a sign to attract attention. Include info: FOUND: type of animal, coloring, date found, where found, gender of animal & your phone #). **DO ASAP! The 1<sup>st</sup> 24 hours are critical.**
6. Bring or fax the same flyer to nearby vet offices. If you need a list of vet offices, visit our web site: [www.spcaalliance.com](http://www.spcaalliance.com) under Programs / SNIP. You can also go to: [www.anywho.com](http://www.anywho.com) and type in Veterinarians as the category and then put in your zip code and surrounding area zip codes to find vet offices in your area.
7. Bring the animal to a vet or Animal Control & have them scan for a microchip.
8. Call or email area rescue groups & let them know about the animal you found in case the owner calls one of them. You can get a list from [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Click on Shelters & Rescue Groups.
8. If you found a dog, take him for a walk around the neighborhood & surrounding neighborhoods & see if anyone recognizes him.

**NOTE: NEVER give an animal away for free to anyone.** There are a lot of people out there that look for free dogs & cats to use as bait in dog fighting. There are also people that sell them to one of three local animal testing labs & others who use kittens as snake food. If someone cannot afford an adoption fee, they cannot afford to own a pet. Charging an adoption fee will weed these people out. We can (or any rescue group) help you find a home for the animal if the owner cannot be found. Are you able to keep him safe by fostering for awhile? Would you be willing to help with any vet work? If so, you can recoup that money with an adoption fee. We will post the animal on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com), screen applicants, do an interview over the phone, do a vet check & then guide you through the contract process to ensure that the animal will go to a good home. We are not able to take in many animals due to limited foster homes.

## LOST A PET?

1. Go to your local Animal Control facilities & bring them a flyer with a color photo of your pet to post on their bulletin board in their lobby. Go there every 2 days to see if someone brought him in. Most animal control facilities euthanize animals after 72 hours if they are not claimed by their owner. Some are put up for adoption if they have kennel space if the animal is adoptable. Bring vet records & photos to prove that the animal is your pet. (Info to include on your flier with photo: LOST: Name of animal, gender, breed, coloring, date lost, exactly where lost (neighborhood, street), approx age, neutered, spayed, declawed, collar color, microchip, etc...) Be sure to go to: [www.petharbor.com](http://www.petharbor.com) site and post LOST report on this animal control site along with a photo of your pet and detailed info noted above.
2. Call your local newspapers & place a LOST ad. Run the ad for as long as it takes. There will be a charge but your pet is worth the expense. Due to space, many newspapers do not always put all the Found ads in their paper. The best place to look for Charlotte Observer ads is on their web site. Check their site frequently for FOUND ads at: [www.charlotteobserver.com](http://www.charlotteobserver.com) (click on Classified, Lost & Found) They keep ads posted online for 2 weeks. You can even call the classified department & ask if they had run a FOUND ad for someone that matches your pet's description prior to 2 weeks ago. Be sure to include the following info in your ad: exactly where & when pet was found (neighborhood, street, date, etc...), gender, breed, coloring, collar, declawed, etc... Put REWARD in ad, but not amount. Be sure you have a current photo of your pet & vet records so you can prove he is your pet if someone calls you to say they have found him.
3. Post a free LOST ad on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). These ads expire after 14 days & you can repost them for free. (Include same info as paragraph above.)
4. Design a color flyer with your dog or cat's photo & bring to nearby vet offices. Create 1 original flyer & make copies at Kinko's. If you need a list of vet offices, visit our web site: [www.spcaalliance.com](http://www.spcaalliance.com) under Programs / SNIP.
5. Post a large black & white flyer on stop signs in all surrounding neighborhoods & on bulletin boards in nearby grocery stores, gas stations, etc... (Be brief & type LARGE!) People can't read small print from their car. It would be great if you could use a large neon poster as a sign to attract attention. (include info: LOST: type of animal, coloring, date lost, where lost, gender of animal & your cell phone # & REWARD (don't put amount). **DO ASAP! 1<sup>st</sup> 24 hours are critical.**
6. Call or email area rescue groups & let them know about the animal you lost in case someone finds your pet & calls one of them. Email them the flyer you created or photos & information. You can get a list of rescue groups on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Click on Shelters & Rescue Groups.
7. **If you lost a cat**, the best time to look for him is in the early morning or late evening when it's quiet outside. Call his name & wait to hear if he meows. Put a flyer in your neighbor's newspaper boxes or tuck behind their mailbox flag. Ask them to check their sheds, crawl spaces, garages, etc... Go to all the neighbors who keep their garage doors cracked for their own cat(s). Most likely there is cat food in the garage & a hungry cat will start hanging out there. Alert them to be on the lookout for your kitty. Keep something of your pet outside so he/she can smell his scent (ie: litterbox, bedding, food). Spread his litter around the perimeter of your yard. Put cat food in the front and back & don't worry about it if other cats are eating it. Your cat may be watching them and will follow them there. **If you have lost your dog**, put fliers in all your neighbor's newspaper boxes or tuck them behind their mailbox flags. Let the rescue groups, vets & Animal Control know when you find your pet so we can take him off our list of lost animals. **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE UP ON YOUR PET!** People find their animals days, weeks & even months after they are lost as long as they continue to keep their information out for the public to see. Ask the neighborhood kids for help & offer a reward.