



Tips for Reuniting a Lost Pet with its Owner

- **Check for ID**

When finding a lost pet, first check for a collar and ID tags. ID tags can come in many forms including personal ID tags, rabies tags, and pet licenses. Personal ID tags often have owner information listed so you can easily contact them by the phone number provided. In the instance of a rabies tag, contact the veterinarian and give them the ID number located on the tag. For licenses, contact the shelter or city identified on the tag and give them the license number to obtain the pet owner's contact information.

- **Report to Local Shelters**

Report the pet as found to local animal shelters in your area. Most pet owners check animal shelters first for their lost pet. Even if you decide to look for the pet's owner on your own, shelters may take your contact information to give to the owners if they call. Every shelter has a jurisdiction that they service for stray animals, so it is best to call your local shelter to determine which location you would need to take the pet to if you decide to turn it in.

- **Check for Microchip**

You can also take the pet to any local vet or animal shelter to have them scanned for a microchip. If the pet is chipped, the vet/shelter staff will be able to obtain the owner's contact information and reach out to them on your behalf.

- **Post Flyers**

Whether you decide to locate the owner on your own or turn them into a local shelter, create a found pet flyer. When creating your flyer, we suggest making it large with bold letters so it's easy to spot. Including a photo of the pet will likely increase your chances of finding the owner. Be sure to add a description of the pet and where it was found. Post the flyers around the area the pet was found, local vet clinics, and animal shelters. Some businesses also have community boards where they may be posted as well (i.e. pet stores, coffee shops etc.). While posting flyers, talk to neighbors and let them know you found the pet. They may recognize the pet or know the owners.

- **Share Online**

One of the fastest ways to share information about a found pet is by posting online. Community forums, lost and found Facebook pages, as well as other websites, will ensure the pet's information reaches a wider audience. It may also accelerate the process of reuniting the pet with their family. Check out our extended list of websites to post a found pet to!