



LOST PET

LOST A PET?

If you have lost your pet, you will need to fill out a Lost Animal Report and bring it with you as soon as possible to Charleston Animal Society, along with photos of your lost pet that our staff can keep.

We care for thousands of lost and stray animals each year, and many animals look alike, so it's very important that you come to Charleston Animal Society to look for your pet. Our staff will walk you through our stray animal areas to see if you can identify your pet. Most strays end up at Charleston Animal Society without collars and tags, so don't count on our staff identifying your pet by its collar or tag.

Stray animals are held at Charleston Animal Society for five days, so we recommend you look for your pet every three to four days. Filling out a Lost Animal Report does not mean you should stop coming to the shelter to look for your pet. You are responsible for finding your pet.



Lost & Found Hotline: (843) 329-1547

WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOST A PET

- Do not waste any time. Begin your search as soon as you notice that the animal is missing.
- Go to the place where your pet was lost, late at night or very early in the morning, when the area will be quiet. Bring his favorite food, a flashlight and a friend for safety.
- If your pet is registered with a lost pet network organization, call them right away.
- Check with other local animal shelters to see if they have your pet:
Dorchester County shelter 843-871-3820; Berkeley County shelter 843-761-0683; and Pet Helpers 843-795-1110.
- Call local vets and emergency clinics in your area. Send them a color photo of your pet with your phone number on it:
North Charleston Emergency Vet: 744-3372, Mt. Pleasant Emergency Vet: 216-7554, Charleston Veterinary Referral Center: 614-8387
- Talk to neighbors – neighborhood kids and trash collectors cover lots of territory in your neighborhood. Ask EVERYONE: neighbors, children, mail carriers, EVERYONE! Show them a photo of your pet so they can keep an eye out for him.
- Check at school playgrounds, parks, churches and restaurants – places where people gather and where there are food sources.



- Make flyers and post them in the neighborhood, grocery and retail stores and vet offices. Create posters that you can post everywhere with your pet's photo and your phone number. The poster should clearly say "LOST CAT" or "LOST DOG" and include the date that the animal was lost, where it was last seen, a brief description (breed, color, sex, age, wearing a collar?) and the name that the animal will answer to.
- Run an ad in the newspaper (Post & Courier phone number 843-722-6500). Be sure to check the found ads daily.
- If your pet is microchipped, call the microchip company to be sure your phone number is correct.
- Post a lost pet ad at [Petfinder](#) and [Fidofinder](#).
- Use social media! Post your lost pet on Facebook, you will be amazed at the response you get. If you don't have a Facebook account, ask a friend or family member to do it for you.
- If the pet is an indoor cat that does not usually get out, place his litter box outside, where he may be able to get his own scent, and recognize his home. (Do not clean it out first!)
- Cats can wander into neighbors' garages, fall asleep and accidentally get shut in.
- DO NOT GIVE UP! Animals have been found after months of being missing!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FOUND A PET

- **Charleston Animal Society is an open admissions animal shelter serving Charleston County.** If you find a pet in Charleston County, you may bring it to Charleston Animal Society during our regular operating hours.
- **If you find a pet outside of Charleston County,** please contact the animal shelter in that county. Charleston Animal Society cannot accept pets that are found outside of Charleston County.
- **If you find a pet after operating hours,** please consider holding onto the pet until Charleston Animal Society opens the next day. If you cannot keep the animal overnight, please call your local police non-emergency number for guidance.
- **If you find an injured stray animal** after Charleston Animal Society is closed for the day, you may take the animal to an Emergency Animal Clinic:
North Charleston: Veterinary Emergency Care 843-744-3372. Mount Pleasant Animal Emergency Clinic 843-216-7554.
- **You will not be charged** for turning in a stray animal, but you will be asked to verify that the animal is stray, so please take your ID to provide necessary information.



First and foremost, we recommend that all pet owners consult with their veterinarian. The information contained herein is meant to be a resource. It is not exhaustive, nor does it indicate an endorsement or recommendation from Charleston Animal Society. Please use your own due diligence in researching these sources and making the best choice for your pet(s).

We'd like to give thanks and credit to the following organizations, whose published resources were utilized in addition to staff research for this compilation:

Nevada Humane Society www.nevadahumanesociety.org
Best Friends Animal Society www.bestfriends.org

If you still need assistance after reviewing the information on our website, please either email or call our Animal Resource Center at help@charlestonanimalsociety.org or (843) 329-1554.

**Animal Resource Center
www.charlestonanimalsociety.org/GetPetHelp**