

MISSING CAT RECOVERY TIPS

CONTACTS: Report your missing pet to the following shelters, starting with the one closest to your home.

Animal Shelter ~ Manahawkin: (609) 978-0127

Animal Shelter ~ Popcorn Park: (609) 693-1900

Animal Shelter ~ Jackson: ((732) 657-8086

Animal Shelter ~ Toms River: (732) 341-1000

Animal Control ~ Stafford: (609) 597-1000

Non-Emergency Police ~ LBT/Barnegat Light: (609) 494-3322

Non-Emergency Police ~ Beach Haven: (609) 492-0505

SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS:

- Always have a good, clear photo (or 2 or 3) of your cat.
- Post on your social media or Neighborhood app as soon as possible. Make sure the post is “shareable” so your neighbors and friends can share it.
- If you are in a community, alert your HOA office and ask them to send an email blast
- For Facebook: the best place to share is in your town or neighborhood groups. People who are familiar with the area and live there are the people who have the best chance of spotting your pet.
- Alert your neighbors, put up posters with a clear picture and description. Let your neighbors know you shared on social media and ask them to share your post.
- Do not post your address or last name. Post your phone number and if you are comfortable, post your first name. You can say lost in the “West Ave Beach Haven” area. Street name & town or your community name and town.

INDOOR-ONLY CATS:

1) An indoor cat that has gotten out, may be very fearful and look for the first place that offers protection and hides in silence, being too afraid to come even when called. One method to use is to train your cat to come to a whistle when he is fed. Then, if he gets outside, try whistling to get him to return home.

2) Immediately, search the vicinity of his home and yard, then branch out to other houses and structures, usually within a 5-home area from where he went missing. Check with other homeowners to gain permission to look around their yards, including garages, sheds, under and around anything that could serve as shelter for your cat, since he can fit into a very small space. As long as he can get his head through, he can hide anywhere.

3) If you do not find him quickly, leave out food and water, his used litter box (do not clean it), and a blanket with his and your scent on it, to help him find his way back home.

4) If you have a garage, leave it open slightly, so that he can find his way in, again, leaving food/water/blanket in there to assist him.

5) Finally, consider leaving a humane trap near your home, or any place he has been spotted, if it has been more than a day or two that he has been missing.

OUTDOOR-ACCESS CATS:

1) Cats with access to outdoors, have a larger territory than indoor-only cats, so focus on the areas you know your cat is familiar with; as he is likely to stay within that territory. So, do a thorough search of your neighborhood; especially, if he were chased by a dog or predator. He may have gone outside his normal region and is hiding due to fear and disorientation.

2) Set a humane trap in a place where you can monitor via sight or wildlife camera, and that is in an area you can reach quickly to prevent

harm to your cat from weather or predators. Traps are available by calling: (609) 597-6040; or (609) 661-3817.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1) If your cat has been microchipped, make sure that his information is up-to-date. Have the number available for responding to calls so you identify your cat.

2) Cats are most active during dawn and dusk, so conduct extra searches during these hours and check with neighbors to determine if they have seen your cat.

3) During evening and night hours, use a flashlight to look for the eye shine of your cat.

4) Shy and timid cats may exhibit behaviors that people may think to be that of a feral cat, so be sure to check with animal control and your shelter, often.