

What to Do If You Lose Your Cat

This document is designed to be a resource for the owners of cats lost in the Madison area. It contains the names of, and contact information for, various local agencies that should be notified. It also contains suggestions for composing and posting fliers, and publicizing your loss.

Here are the groups you need to notify about your lost cat. **It's best to send them an e-mail with a photo attached. Photos help a lot.**

Angel's Wish info@angelswish.org 608-848-4174
Shelter From The Storm sfts.info@yahoo.com 608-284-7447
Dane County Friends of Ferals info@daneferals.org 608-467-4067

Include-

- The cat's name, age, color, sex and anything special about the cat. Declawed? Unusual markings or physical anomalies like a missing eye or extra toes?
- Is the cat wearing a collar? Microchipped?
- Where was the cat lost? Give your address as well as the general area, e.g. west side.
- When was the cat lost?
- Who should people call if they find him or her? Include phone numbers.
- Is there a reward?
- A clear photo of the cat is most helpful.

You should also file a report with the **Dane County Humane Society**. Their phone number is 608-838-0413, but it is far better to go file your report in person.

Their lost and found page is <https://www.giveshelter.org/lost-your-pet.html> which also contains a lot of resources and links. Take a photo of the cat to file with the report. Ask your vet for a copy of the cat's vaccination record to file along with the report and photo. While you are at the DCHS ask if an attendant can take you of a tour of the various holding areas so you can look for your cat personally. It is a good idea to return to the Humane Society and look for your cat weekly if you possibly can.

You can also file a lost pet report with **local police departments**. Madison has an Animal Control officer who fields these calls. Smaller towns usually don't- call their non-emergency police department number to report a lost pet. It's a good idea to call towns around yours as well- cats can travel quite a distance.

- **Madison** Animal Control 608-267-1989
- **Middleton** non-emergency 608-824-7300
- **Fitchburg** non-emergency 608-270-4300
- **Verona** non-emergency 608-845-7623
- **Maple Bluff** non-emergency 608-244-1430
- **Monona** non-emergency 608-222-0463
- **Shorewood Hills** non-emergency 608- 267-1110
- **McFarland** non-emergency 608-838-3151
- **Cottage Grove** non-emergency 608-839-4652
- **Sun Prairie** non-emergency 608-837-7336
- **Oregon** non-emergency 608-835-3111
- **Mt. Horeb** non-emergency 608-437-5522

Each of these police departments has a place (animal shelter, vet's office) to which they take animals they pick up- injured and non-injured. Ask the person who answers the phone where their department takes the animals. Call those places and ask them to be on the lookout for your cat.

Call the **WI State Journal** 608-252-6100. They will run a free Lost Pet ad for you!

Post on Lost Cats of Wisconsin Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/lostcatwi> They will have a link so

you can generate a flyer here http://www.helpinglostpets.com/v2/EditPet_Start.aspx?rc=0963 . Spread far and wide on Social Media!

Post your lost cat on **Craig's List** <http://madison.craigslist.org/laf/>. Include the photo, if possible, and all of the information. Too, if you or anyone in your family belongs to any **live chat or social networking sites** don't neglect to get the word out that way!

If you live in a **co-op or condo association** contact your management company or board of directors. They may be able to send an all-association e-mail with a notice about your lost cat.

Make a flier with a photo on it! Fliers are the number one way pets get returned. The flier should contain the same basic info as your e-mail-

- Cat's name and description.
- General area in which the cat was lost.
- Your contact information.
- Reward information- if one is being offered.
- A clear photo if possible
- Tear-off phone numbers at the bottom of the flier are a plus.

Post the flier in **grocery stores**- they always have a bulletin board where people can post things. Other good places to post include **PDQs, banks, laundromats, gyms, libraries, coffee shops and community centers**. The people who manage these places are usually very nice about this sort of thing- just ask. If you have friends who can post them in **offices, work places** and **schools** ask them! Also take one to every **vet** in the area. People will often take animals they find to the nearest vet. If you are going to post fliers on the street, post them at **intersections** and **bus stops** for maximum impact.

Walk around your neighborhood calling and shaking your cat's food or treat bag. Take a flier- show it to everyone you meet and ask them to be on the lookout. Don't neglect **neighborhood kids**. They may spot your cat under a bush or up in a tree. Ask your neighbors or go through garages, sheds, look under porches, decks, and other nooks and crannies where cats can hide.

If you believe your cat is still in the area you can borrow a **live trap** from the Humane Society. Set the trap near your house, baited with food your cat can't resist. Monitor the trap and bait in the morning. If you do it at night, you may catch a skunk or a raccoon. See more trapping tips in the TNR and Lost Cat sections of the website.

Remember that cats can travel surprisingly long distances and have been know to return *months* after they've gone missing! Keep looking and don't give up hope. Good Luck!