

# CHECK DAILY WITH MEMPHIS ANIMAL SERVICES



An important step in your search for a lost pet is to visit Memphis Animal Services' Animal Center or other area shelters. It is quite possible that your pet was picked up running loose or was turned into a shelter by someone who found it by the road.

Unless your pet was wearing a pet license, there is no way of making a positive identification. Many animals look alike, and it is impossible for MAS personnel to know from your description whether or not they are holding your pet. Therefore, it is vital that you visit the shelter daily to look for your self. Or you can call the LOST PET LINE number below daily to check on animals brought into the Service Center. Once you visit the Animal Services Center, check with personnel to sign up for the lost pet program. This needs to be renewed every three days until your pet is found. If you do not renew your lost pet with this program, it will be assumed that your pet has been found.

Overcrowding has forced us to impose a 72 hour minimum holding period before the animal becomes property of the City of Memphis. At the end of this time period, decisions must be made - will this animal be placed for adoption or will it have to be humanely euthanized? We strive to hold animals for as long as possible by placing them for adoption. However, because of public safety or in the best interest of the animal they are often humanely euthanized. Don't force us to make these decisions unnecessarily.

## DON'T WAIT!

The minute you realize your pet is missing, start looking. The sooner you start, the better your chances of success. Start looking at the point where the animal was last seen. Check alleys, backyards, streets and garages. Dogs are often drawn to parks, woods, or schoolyards, while cats may hide in small sheltered places like under porches, behind shrubbery, under cars or in sheds and boxes. Then again, your cat may have found its way to a rooftop or up a tree, so look up as well as down.

## TELL THE WORLD!

If an immediate search doesn't bring results, prepare a poster for circulation. Make it at least 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches or larger and include a photograph of your pet. Lot's of people don't know what a "terrier" or a "Burmese" or a "mixed-breed" looks like. Try to include a likeness of your pet showing the head, ears, tail and body shape and any distinctive markings. Also include color, size, weight, age, sex, and type of collar if any. There are differing opinions about whether or not a reward helps, but a modest reward might be enough to make otherwise indifferent people take action if they see your pet.

**LOST! Collie mix - 2 years old - Brown/white/black.**

**Neutered male with a Blue Collar. Contact (XXX) XXX-XXXX Reward offered for return.**



Get your poster duplicated and make sure you have enough copies to post in prominent places around schools, parks, shopping malls, and wherever you can get permission to do so. Remember bulletin boards in supermarkets, laundromats, libraries and churches.

Place a lost/found ad in your daily newspaper. Try to run it every day for the first two weeks. Be sure to keep track of all the Found ads in other weekly and community newspapers in case someone has



City of Memphis Animal Services

3456 Tchulahoma Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38118-2710  
(901) 362-5310  
(901) 362-6876 FAX

24 Hour Lost Pet Line  
(901) 365-PETS