

Lost Cat?

Losing a pet is very distressing and at the time owners do not always think clearly. The following is intended as a guideline to help you in your search.

Sometimes cats seem lost but in fact are just snoozing in a comfy, warm place, so firstly:

- Check under beds, in beds, behind sofas and other furniture, behind curtains and blinds. Check lofts and under floor boards if there is any possibility your cat may have found its way into these places. Also washing machines and tumble driers can harbour a sleepy cat.
- Check in your shed, garage, greenhouse, garden, hedges etc. and then ask your neighbours if they would check theirs.
- Widen your search to local streets, play areas, hedges, areas of shrubs or long grass etc. Call your cat and shake biscuits or rattle their favourite toy. Call firmly, but calmly and listen for any response, before moving on. Give your cat the opportunity to come to you.
- Contact your local animal rescues, including Cats Protection, Blue Cross, RSPCA etc.
- If a pedigree cat, then contact breed rescues and breed clubs for your specific breed and any similar, so for example if it is a Ragdoll, also contact Birman rescues and clubs, locally and UK wide.
- Produce a list of the following information and give these details to as many places and people as possible, e.g. your local vets, local pet rescues, local catteries, local police stations, local schools, the postman and milkman etc.

Cat's name

Cat's age

Cat's colour and pattern (include a recent photo if you have one)

Any specific distinguishing features

Gender

Neuter status

Any microchip

Date, time and area the cat went missing

- If your pet is microchipped, then contact the microchip company and report your cat missing.
- Produce a flier, including your phone number and a basic description of your cat, but withhold some detail, specifically any distinguishing features, which you can use to check whether a lead is genuine. Include a photo. If your cat is a pedigree do not include the name of the breed or that it is pedigree within the poster. You may choose to offer a reward but do not quote a specific amount. Print as many copies as you can and gain permission to display as follows:

Local vets, on the waiting room notice board

Library notice boards

Notice boards at schools, community centres, village halls, churches etc.

Petshop notice boards

Local shop and newsagent windows

Supermarket notice boards

Dr, dentist, health centre, police station notice boards

Also post a copy through front doors in your local area and fix copies to lamp posts, phone boxes etc. and to your own front gate or front door.

Finally,

Check the lost and found ads in local papers, on websites etc.

Contact your local paper and local radio and ask them to put out an appeal

Contact your local council environmental services. This is a very difficult step to take, but they keep records of any animals found killed at the roadside, so will be able to confirm whether any cat matching your description has been found. If it has not then this is encouraging news and will bring hope.

Helpful Numbers:

Pet Search UK: 0121 743 4133

Animal Search UK: 01432 761 406

National Cats Protection Helpline: 08702 099 099

National RSPCA Helpline: 0870 5555 999

Missing Pets Bureau: 0800 0195 123