IS YOUR PET MISSING? HERE IS WHAT TO DO.

Losing a pet can be a stressful and emotional experience, but taking immediate and systematic action can greatly increase the chances of finding your furry friend. Here's a detailed step-by-step process created by your friends at Rescued Pets Movement to follow if your pet goes missing.

1. Immediate Search and Alert:
- Search Your Home and Surroundings: Thoroughly check your house, yard, and immediate surroundings. Pets can hide in surprising places.
- Alert Neighbors: Inform your neighbors and ask them to keep an eye out. Share a photo and description of your pet.

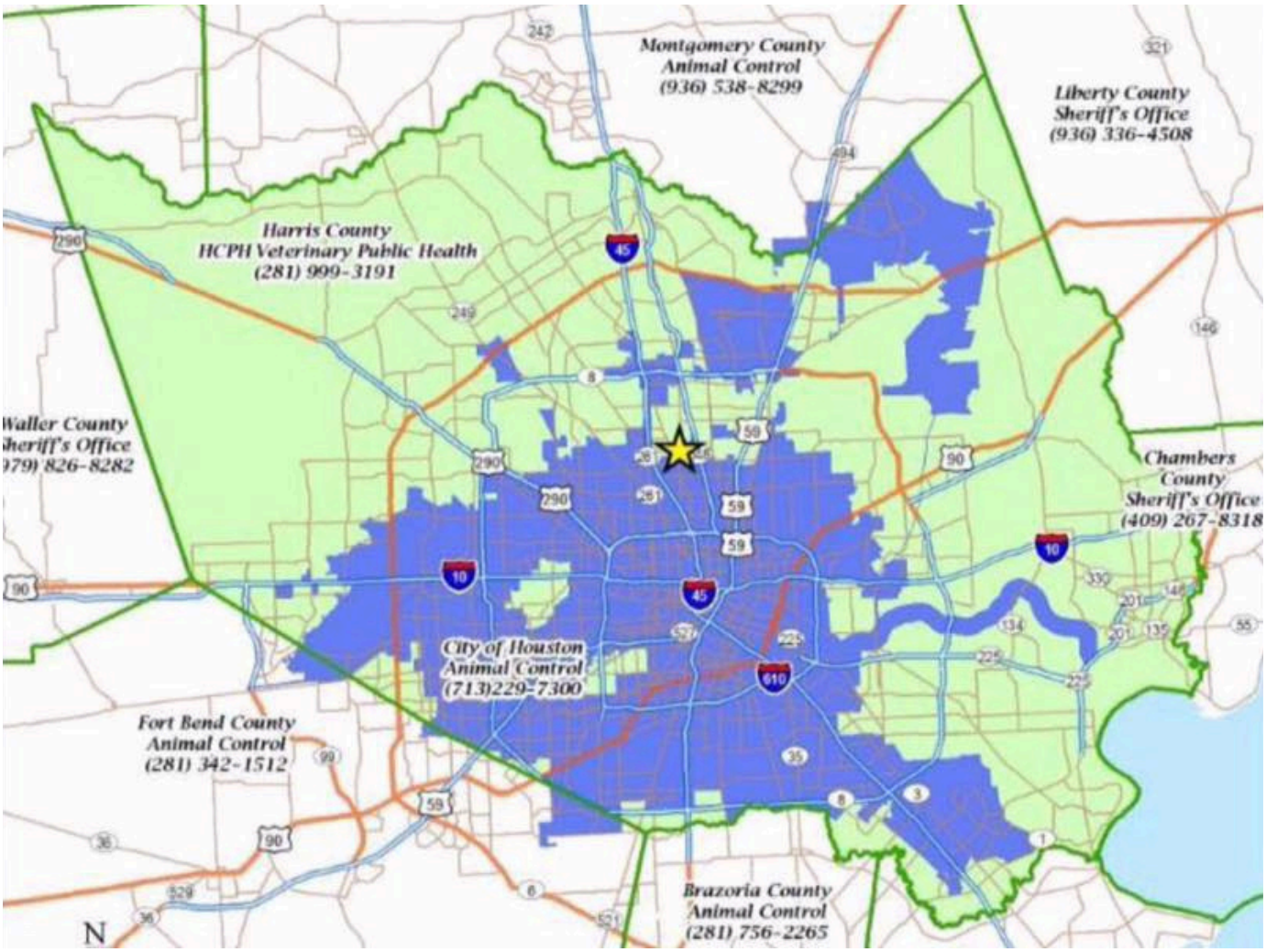
2. Create A Flyers (crucial!): Include a clear photo, information about the pet, and your contact information. Gender, Breed, Color, Identifying Features, Microchipped, Wearing Collar or Tags, Age, Weight, Location Lost, Date Lost, Etc. Rescued Pets Movement has designed a free, editable template for public use on Canva.com or on the Canva cell phone app; you can access the free template using this QR code:

3. Print and Post Flyers in the Area: While printing and hanging flyers might seem old school, many citizens do not have access to the internet and there are so many different sites and groups to post lost and found pets. We strongly recommend posting physical, printed flyers if at all possible. Laminating or inserting flyers in sheet protectors can help them withstand weather damage. Place the flyers in high-traffic areas such as:
- Busy intersections
- Community bulletin boards
- Local parks
- Grocery stores
- Pet stores
- Veterinary offices- Notify local shelters and veterinary clinics. Provide them with the pet's description and your contact information, or email a PDF of a "lost/missingpet" flyer. Please see page 5 for a list of local, public shelters, many of which have a place to report found pets on their websites.
- Rescue centers- RPM is happy to hang your lost pet posters! Many other local groups will do the same. We recommend visiting in person to drop off a physical flyer rather than emailing.

4. Visit and Contact Local Shelters:
- In-Person Visits: Regularly visit local animal shelters and rescue organizations. Pets can sometimes look different when they're scared or stressed, so checking in person yourself is crucial.
- Provide Information: Give them a flyer and ask if you can check the found animals.
- Notes: Shelters are only legally required to hold healthy animals for 3 days before they can potentially be at risk of euthanasia. If an animal is injured, like if they have been hit by a car, they can be euthanized immediately upon entering the shelter to prevent further suffering.

It is absolutely crucial for your pet that you check shelter websites multiple times daily to see the newest animals to arrive and scan photos to be sure none are your pet. Be sure to search websites WITHOUT inputting the breed of your pet or any specifics such as age and size. These things can be subjective and therefore narrow your search results and may not include your missing pet. The most central website to check public shelters is 24petconnect.com.

- Which Shelter to Check: the Houston area has nearly 20 public shelters which have animal control picking up pets. While animal control only covers certain areas, citizens are only able to turn in a pet they find to the shelter their home address is jurisdiction to. So for example, let's say Emily finds a dog on the side of the road in Pasadena, but she lives in Houston. That dog will be taken to the City of Houston shelter, BARC, not Pasadena, because Emily's home address is not jurisdiction to Pasadena. Additionally, BARC and Harris County shelters both have convoluted jurisdiction lines that, quite frankly, make no sense. Please see the jurisdiction lines in the photo below; the green indicates Harris County Pets' jurisdiction while the blue indicates BARC/City of Houston jurisdiction. If you lost your pet in or around Houston, be sure to check both BARC and Harris County Pets, as well as any nearby local shelters. You can find a full list of public shelters on page 5 of this handout.



5. Post on Lost and Found Websites (crucial!):

- Petco Love Lost: lost.petcolove.org (Petco Love Lost uses facial recognition software and cutting edge technology to reunite pets and their people. If you only post on one website, make sure it is Petco Love Lost, which also integrates into several other platforms and websites automatically.)

- PawBoost: pawboost.com
- Nextdoor: nextdoor.com
- Ring Neighbors: neighbors.ring.com (you can create an account and post even without a Ring device)
- Lost My Doggie: lostmydoggie.com

Petco Love Lost | Pawboost | Nextdoor | Ring Neighbors | Lost My Doggie

4. Post on Social Media and Online Communities (crucial!): Be sure to utilize social media to spread the word about your missing pet! We strongly recommend creating a public post on your personal Facebook page, then sharing the post across various Facebook groups. Having one original post makes it easy to update in a single place if you find your pet rather than having to backtrack and update each individual post. There are hundreds of lost and found groups, and sharing in as many as possible helps increase the likelihood you will be reunited with your pet. Here are a few of the most popular Facebook groups:

- Lost and Found Pets: Houston & Surrounding Areas
- HOUSTON LOST & FOUND PETS
- Houston Lost/Found Dogs, Pets
- Texas – Lost Dogs, Cats & Pets – PawBoost Community
- Lost N' Found Pets of Houston and Surrounding Areas
- Rescue/Foster/Network Animals of Houston TX
- Lost&Found, Rescue/Foster/Rehoming pets across All Areas of Houston
- Houston Save-a-Pet and Pet Support
- PETS OF OAK FOREST - Dogs and Cats - HOUSTON (local to the area around RPM. Only pets found in the Oak Forest area can be shared here.)

Lost and Found Pets: Houston & Surrounding Areas | HOUSTON LOST & FOUND PETS | Houston Lost/Found Dogs, Pets | Texas – Lost Dogs, Cats & Pets – PawBoost Community | Lost N' Found Pets of Houston and Surrounding Areas

Rescue/Foster/Network Animals of Houston TX | Lost&Found, Rescue/ Foster/Rehoming pets across All Areas of Houston | Houston Save-a-Pet and Pet Support | PETS OF OAK FOREST - Dogs and Cats - HOUSTON

Please be aware, there are scams across the internet where a scammer will pretend to have found your pet and "attempt to verify you are real" by sending a code to your phone. This is a scam. Do not send verification codes or login information to anyone claiming to have found your pet. Also meet in public places and bring a friend or family member with you if possible.

5. Local Community Forums: Post on local forums and community pages. There are often dedicated Facebook groups for certain areas as well as local websites such as Craigslist.

6. Is Your Pet Microchipped? If yes, be sure to take the following steps:

- **Locating Your Pet's Microchip Information:**
  - Vet Records: Your veterinarian should have the microchip information on file. This is usually recorded during the implantation procedure.
  - Adoption Papers: If you adopted your pet, the rescue organization or shelter would have provided the microchip details in the adoption paperwork.
  - Pet Insurance: If you have pet insurance, the microchip number might be listed in the policy details.
- **Microchip Registration**
  - Importance: Registering the microchip with your contact information is crucial. A microchip without updated information is almost useless. Even if your information has not changed and you are confident you registered your pet's microchip previously, please be sure to double check! So many people do not get their pet back because info on their chip is out of date or not properly registered.
  - Registration Platforms: There are many microchip companies, but some of the most common companies and their registration websites include:
    - HomeAgain: homeagain.com
    - AKC Reunite: akcreunite.org
    - PetLink: petlink.net
    - 24PetWatch: 24petwatch.com
    - Avid Identification: avidid.com
    - BuddyID: buddyid.com
    - Universal Pet Microchip Lookup: Use AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup to check which registry holds your pet's microchip information. This tool can guide you to the correct database if you're unsure. aaha.org, then click "For Veterinary Professionals", "Microchip Registry Lookup", or scan the QR code below to be redirected to the correct page:
  - Report the Pet Missing: Once you have successfully registered and/or updated the information on the microchip registry website, be sure to report your pet missing on the website or via telephone.

7. Check Posts and Responses Regularly: Keep an eye on any responses to your posts and check your voicemail and email frequently.

8. Consider Humane Traps: If you suspect your pet is hiding nearby, consider using humane traps. Check with local animal control or shelters for advice on setting traps. There is also a host of information on trapping and setting feeding stations on Google. If you need a trap, post in the local rescue and pet-related Facebook groups (such as the ones provided on step #4) asking if anyone has one you can borrow. There are many animal rescuers across Houston with a trap they are willing to loan out in order to get your pet back!

9. Additional Tips

- Calm and Call: Walk around the neighborhood calmly calling your pet's name. Bring their favorite toy or treats.
- Time of Day: Search at different times of the day, especially early morning and late evening when it's quieter.
- Yard Sign: consider placing a poster/campaign type yard sign in your front yard advertising your missing pet

HOUSTON-AREA PUBLIC SHELTERS

The Houston metro area is served by nearly 20 public shelters, each with designated animal control services responsible for picking up stray pets within their specific jurisdictions. However, animal control coverage is limited to certain areas, meaning residents must turn in found pets to the shelter corresponding to their home address's jurisdiction. For instance, if Emily, who lives in Houston, finds a dog in Pasadena, she would need to take the dog to BARC (the City of Houston shelter) rather than a Pasadena shelter, because her home address falls under Houston's jurisdiction. That pet's parent would need to check BARC as well to even see their pet! This system ensures that pets are processed and cared for according to the regulations and capacities of the appropriate local authority, however, this can make finding your lost pet very difficult. Additionally, the jurisdiction lines for BARC and Harris County Pets are complex and can be confusing. If you have lost your pet in or around Houston, it's crucial to check both BARC and Harris County Pets, as well as any nearby local shelters, since jurisdiction boundaries might overlap or be unclear, and your pet may have been picked up by a Good Samaritan who lives in another shelter's jurisdiction.

Shelters are only legally required to hold healthy animals for only 3 days before they may be at risk of euthanasia. If an animal is injured, such as being hit by a car, they can be euthanized immediately upon entering the shelter to prevent further suffering. It is crucial to check shelter websites multiple times daily to see the newest arrivals and carefully scan photos to ensure none are your missing pet. If there is an extended amount of time before you recheck the websites, it may be too late and your pet may already have been euthanized. Do not rely on sending a flyer to the shelter to be enough for a staff member to recognize your pet! They see hundreds of animals and cannot typically recognize your pet from a flyer alone. Avoid specifying the breed, age, or size during your online search, as these details can be subjective and might narrow your search results, potentially excluding your missing pet. The primary website to check for public shelters is 24petconnect.com

BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions (City of Houston)
2700 Evella St. Houston, TX 77026
713-837-0311
houstontx.gov/barc/

Baytown Animal Control
705 N Robert C Lanier Dr. Baytown, TX 77520
281-422-7600
baytown.org/1160/Animal-Services
animalcontrol@baytown.org

Bellaire Animal Shelter
5110 Jessamine St. Bellaire, TX 77401
713-668-0487
bellairetx.gov/1039/In-Our-Pound

Bunker Hill
713-464-9762
bunkerhilltx.gov/citizens/animal-services

Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center
4213 Luell Avenue Deer Park, TX 77536
281-478-7274
deerparktx.gov/490/Animal-Control
animalshelter@deerparktx.org

Fort Bend County Animal Control
1210 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-342-1512
fortbendcountytx.gov > "Animal Services"

Harris County Pets
612 Canino Rd. Houston, TX 77076
281-999-3191
countypets.com

Humble Animal Control
240 Dennis St. Humble, TX 77338
281-446-2327
cityofhumbletx.gov/animal-services/

Jacinto City Animal Control
713-453-7411
jacintocity-tx.gov/animal-control/
publicworks@jacintocity-tx.gov

LaPorte City Animal Control
10901 Spencer Highway La Porte, TX 77571
281-471-3811
laportetx.gov > "Animal Shelter & Animal Control"

League City Animal Care
821 North Kansas Av. League City, TX 77573
281-554-1377
leaguecitytx.gov > "Departments" > "Animal Care

Missouri City Animal Control
1919 Scanlin Rd. Missouri City, TX 77489
281-403-8707
missouricitytx.gov/92/Animal-Services
animalservices@missouricitytx.gov

Montgomery County Animal Shelter
8535 State Hwy 242 Conroe, TX 77385
936-442-7738
mcaspets.org

Pearland Animal Control
8311 Freedom Dr. Pearland, TX 77581
281-652-1970
pearlandtx.gov > "Departments" > "Animal Services"

Rosenberg Animal Control
1207 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-595-3490
rosenbergtx.gov > "Community" > "Animal Control"

Seabrook Animal Shelter
1100 Red Bluff Rd. Seabrook, TX 77586
281-291-5644
seabrooktx.gov > "Department" > "Police Department" > "Animal Control"

Sugarland Animal Control
101B Gillingham Ln. Sugarland, TX 77498
281-275-2364
sugarlandtx.gov/220/Animal-Services

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This handout is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute veterinary, legal, medical, behavioral, or other professional advice. Individuals are solely responsible for evaluating their circumstances and taking appropriate action. Rescued Pets Movement (RPM) assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss, damage, claim, or outcome resulting from the use of information contained in this handout or any referenced resources.