FACT SHEET: FINDING A LOST PET

This fact sheet provides useful tips when searching for a lost furry friend. Visiting local animal shelters and pounds in person is the first step.

PLEASE NOTE:

Many people who find lost pets may not hand them into local council or animal shelters immediately. It may take them a few weeks or even a few months.

Therefore, you should continue to visit pounds and animal shelters weekly for at least three months.

TIP:

A letter box drop is particularly useful for finding lost cats.

PHYSICALLY CHECK LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND POUNDS

Due to the large number of dogs and cats at pounds and animal shelters like The Lost Dogs' Home, we strongly recommended that you physically visit the Home and other shelters and pounds if you have lost your pet.

It is also possible that your pet will be taken to an animal shelter by a member of the public. This is another reason you should visit shelters and pounds in person.

CHECK LOCAL AND SURROUNDING COUNCILS

Check the area where your pet was lost. Phone your local council and ask where animals are taken when collected by local council rangers. Councils either have their own holding pens or they use a major animal shelter as their pound. Ask for the address and their visiting hours so you can personally check to see if your pet is there.

Remember: you can recognise your pet more easily than staff at shelters and pounds.

CONDUCT A NEIGHBOURHOOD SEARCH

Conduct a thorough and wide search of the area around where your pet was last seen.

Your search should include:
• Door knocking
• A letter box drop
• Posting fliers in prominent places (for example; shop windows, trees, power poles etc.)

Information to include on a flier:
• A photograph of your pet
• Detailed description of your pet including name, age, breed colour, sex and any distinguishing characteristics
• The date it went missing
• The area it went missing in
• Your name and contact number/s.

OTHER SUGGESTED METHODS OF ENQUIRY

Vet Clinics
Check the locality guide in the yellow pages and phone all local vets to check if your pet has been taken there.

Newspapers
Advertise and check in all local and major newspapers.

Online

Many shelters have websites that details pets that have been lost/ found. Also there are groups on Facebook which post lost/found animals. A couple of helpful sites include:
• doglost.com.au
• lostcat.com.au

Remember: Collars and tags can come off or may be removed deliberately. You should personally visit shelters and pounds as many animals are impounded with their ID missing.

MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping is normally a reliable and permanent form of identification for your pet. Staff at pounds and shelters make every effort to check all strays admitted for microchip identification. By law, all cats and dogs must be microchipped before being sold. This includes sales from registered breeders, animal shelters, pet shops and private homes. This is not for animals that are advertised as 'free to a good home'. The Lost Dogs' Home offers a microchipping service.

All council pounds and animal shelters have microchip scanning equipment. You should ensure your contact details are always kept up to date with your microchip agency.

Occasionally, microchips can move around the animal's body and might not always be picked up by a scanner. If your pet is microchipped, you should have your pet regularly checked to see if the chip can be properly scanned.

Remember: The 'Φ' symbol in the ear indicates that the animal has been desexed, and should not be mistaken for a unique form of identification. It is important to note, that tattoos do fade over time and are sometimes difficult to read.

Point of Contact	Contact Details	Melways Ref	Lost pet enquiry hours
The Lost Dogs' Home 2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne, VIC	T: 03 9329 2755 F: 03 9326 5293 E: info@dogshome.com	2A C7 43 B4	Mon –Thurs: 10:00am – 6:15pm Fri: 10:00am – 4:45pm Sat: 9:00am – 3:30pm Sun: 9:00am – 12:30pm
South Eastern Pound Services 920 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne West, VIC	T: 03 9702 8055 F: 03 9702 8655 E: info@dogshome.com	128 K8	Mon – Fri: 10:00am – 6:00pm Sat – Sun: 9:00am – 1:00pm
Lort Smith Animal Hospital 24 Villiers Street, North Melbourne, VIC	T: 03 9321 7260 (lost dogs) T: 03 9321 7240 (lost cats) F: 03 9329 5347	43 E4	Mon-Sun: 9:30am – 3:30pm
RSPCA (Victoria – Burwood) 3 Burwood Highway, Burwood East, VIC	T: 03 9224 2222 F: 03 9221 0071	61 G6	Mon – Sun: 9:00am – 5:00pm
RSPCA Epping Animal Welfare Facility 20 Companion Place, Epping, VIC	T: 03 8401 6600	180 K9	Mon, Wed: Fri: 11.00am – 7.00pm Tues, Thurs: 7.00am – 3.00pm Sat – Sun & public holidays: 9:00am – 12:00pm
Australia Animal Protections Society 132 Bangholme Road, Dandenong Sth, VIC	T: 03 9798 8415 / 03 9798 8044 F: 03 9769 0317	94 B1	Mon – Sat: 10:00am – 3:30pm Sun & public holidays: 11:00am – 3:00pm
Blue Cross Animal Society 26 Homestead Road, Wonga Park, VIC	T: 03 9722 1265 F: 03 9722 1265	24 J12	Mon: Closed Tues – Sun: 11:00am – 3:30pm (visit) Tues – Sun: 9:00am – 4:00pm (phone)
Animal Aid 35 Killara Road, Coldstream, VIC	T: 03 9739 0300 F: 03 9739 0400 E: enquiries@animalaid.org.au	281 F7	Mon – Sun: 9:00am – 5:00pm
RSPCA (Peninsula) 1030 Robinsons Road, Pearcedale, VIC	T: 03 5978 9000 F: 03 5978 7255	141 C3	Mon – Sun: 9:00am – 4:00pm (visit) Mon – Sun: 9:00am – 5:00pm (phone)
Geelong Animal Welfare Society 325 Portarlington Road, Moolap, VIC	T: 03 5248 2091 F: 03 5248 1338 E: admin@gaws.org.au	20 G4	Mon – Sun: 10:00am – 4:00pm Daylight Saving extended hours: Tues & Thurs: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Cat Protection Society 200 Elder Street, Greensborough, VIC	T: 03 9434 7155 F: 03 9432 0472	20 J6	Mon – Fri: 10:00am – 4:00pm Sat – Sun: 11:00am – 2:00pm

Council		Pound		Bordering Councils
Name	Phone	Name	Phone	
Banyule	T: 03 9490 4222	Nillumbik Pound	T: 03 9433 3111	
Bayside	T: 03 9599 4444	LDH Cranbourne	T: 03 9702 8055	
Boroondara	T: 03 9278 4444	RSPCA	T: 03 9224 2222	
Brimbank	T: 03 9249 4000	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Melton, Maribynong, Moonee Valley, Hume, Hobsons Bay
Cardinia	T: 1300 787 624	LDH Cranbourne	T: 03 9702 8055	
Casey	T: 03 9705 5200	LDH Cranbourne	T: 03 9702 8055	
Dandenong	T: 03 8571 1000	LDH Cranbourne	T: 03 9702 8055	
Darebin	T: 03 8470 8888	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Moreland, Whittlesea, Banyule, Yarra, Boroondara
Frankston	T: 03 9748 1888	LDH Cranbourne	T: 03 9702 8055	
Glen Eira	T: 03 9524 3333	RSPCA	T: 03 9224 2222	
Hobsons Bay	T: 03 9932 1000	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Maribynong, Wyndham, Brimbank, Melbourne
Hume	T: 03 9205 2200	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Melton, Moreland, Brimbank, Whittlesea, Mitchell Shire, Macedon
Kingston	T: 1300 653 356	LDH Cranbourne	T: 03 9702 8055	
Knox	T: 03 9298 8000	RSPCA	T: 03 9224 2222	
Macedon Ranges	T: 03 5422 0333	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Mitchell Shire, Hume, Mt Alexander, Hepburn, Moorabool
Manningham	T: 03 9840 9333	Manningham Pound	T: 03 9840 9333	
Maribyrnong	T: 03 9688 0200	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Wyndham, Melton, Moonee Valley, Hobsons Bay, Brimbank, Melbourne
Maroondah	T: 03 9298 4598	Victorian Animal Aid	T: 03 9739 0300	
Melbourne City	T: 03 9658 9658	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	
Melton	T: 03 9747 7200	Melton Pound	T: 03 9747 7200	
Monash	T: 03 9518 3555	RSPCA	T: 03 9224 2222	
Moonee Valley	T: 03 9243 8888	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Brimbank, Maribynong, Moreland, Melbourne
Moreland	T: 03 9240 1111	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Darebin, Yarra, Hume, Moonee Valley, Melbourne
Nillumbik	T: 03 9433 3111	Nillumbik Pound	T: 03 9433 3111	
Port Phillip	T: 03 9209 6666	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Melbourne, Bayside, Stonington, Glen Eira
Stonnington	T: 03 8290 1333	Stonnington Pound	T: 03 9824 7928	
Whitehorse	T: 03 9262 6333	RSPCA	T: 03 9224 2222	
Whittlesea	T: 03 9217 2170	RSPCA Epping	T: 03 9408 7356	
Wyndham	T: 03 9742 0777	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Hobsons Bay, Greater Geelong, Melton, Brimbank, Moorabool
Yarra	T: 03 9205 5555	LDH North Melbourne	T: 03 9329 2755	Darebin, Melbourne, Moreland, Boroondara, Stonnington
Yarra Ranges	T: 1300 368 333	Victorian Animal Aid	T: 03 9739 0300	

The Lost Dogs' Home
2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Telephone 03 9329 2755
Fax 03 9326 5293

info@dogshome.com
www.dogshome.com
Twitter: lostdogshome
Facebook: lostdogshome

Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for thousands of cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including: proactive adoption, foster care, behaviour rehabilitation, low cost desexing and microchipping, and the promotion of better pet ownership through education.