

Facts about Lost Animals



- Many lost cats and dogs enter shelters, but few are reunited with their families.
- Dogs are luckier than cats when it comes to being reunited, mainly because they have identification.
- AWA can file a lost report that will be shared with our local alliance.
- AWA can scan for microchips, and if we find any, can call and/or send out letters to the address listed. However, we cannot house the lost animal.
- The #2 way animals enter people's lives is from being found.

For more information, visit our website awanj.org or call 856-424-2288.



About AWA

Our Mission

AWA is dedicated to eliminating animal suffering and promoting the importance of the human-animal bond and improving the role of the animals in the well-being of people.

We serve our community by:

- Saving thousands of homeless and abandoned animals each year.
- Humane Education activities for schools and youth groups, including our Summer Camp program.
- Providing low-cost spay/neuter surgery and veterinary care through our Pet Clinic and our Vets on Wheels program.

Hours of Operation

Adoption Center

Tuesday—Friday 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Wellness exams are available M-F by appt. Walk-in Vaccine Clinics are available Monday mornings, plus several Saturdays a month (check website.) Spay/neuter surgeries are M-F by appointment, which can be made online.

Have You Found a Lost Pet?



When You Find a Lost Animal

Lost Cats

The personality of the cat can indicate how he behaves when lost.

Shy or fearful cats tend to hide very close to their homes and can be coaxed to return by leaving food out. These cats tend to be very quiet and do not meow.

Curious cats tend to wander. These are the types of cats that greet strangers and are not frightened of new things. They can travel over five blocks and may be seen at neighbors' doors looking for food. These cats tend to be a bit loud.



Lost Dogs

Lost dogs call people to action. If the dog is friendly and you feel comfortable spending time looking for the owner, it may lead to a quick reunion.

Note: You do not know the dog and he should not be left alone with your children or other pets until you are 100% sure he is safe.

If You Think You May Want to Keep the Lost Animal You Found...

In New Jersey, there is a required "stray hold" time of seven days. Take that time to find his owners. If the owner is not found, take the animal to the veterinarian to get a checkup.

Finding the Owner

Leaving a dog or cat at a shelter is one way to reunite a pet, but it is not always the best option. There are several things you can do while holding on to the lost pet:

- Take the animal to a veterinarian or shelter to scan for a microchip.
- Report the pet to your local impound facility, animal control and local police department. You can find a list of shelters and towns to which they are contracted, under Lost & Found on our website.
- Place flyers/posters in area shopping centers and around where you found the pet. Go out about 2 miles or 10 blocks.
- Post the pet on the local shelter's Facebook page. You can also post to the Pet Amber Alert site: petamberalert.com
- Talk to neighbors, letter carriers, and paper delivery people to see if they recognize the animal or have seen "lost" flyers that match the animal you found.
- Google map area veterinary hospitals to see if they have any matching reports. (Most people go to a vet within 5 to 10 miles of their home.)
- Place an ad in the local paper or craigslist describing the area where you found the animal. Withhold some information for the owner to use to identify the animal.
- Find out if your neighborhood has a community list server, where you can send an email out to people in the community.



Why does this approach work?

This approach helps for a few reasons:

- It keeps an animal out of the shelter. Shelters receive thousands of animals a year - too many to be adopted out.
- It provides the animal with love and companionship, and you gain insight into his personality.
- It does not displace the animal from the area he was lost/found.
- Cats that are relocated to shelters tend not to be found because people do not think someone transferred the pet out of the area.

Does AWA take lost or stray pets?

AWA does not impound stray/lost pets but can help you in several ways:

- AWA can scan a lost pet for a microchip
- AWA can file a lost report that will be shared with our local alliance.
- AWA can help you locate the proper facility to take the lost/stray pet.