



Jacksonville's Guide for Lost and Found Pets

Helping Pets Return Home



JACKSONVILLE
**HUMANE
SOCIETY**



Animal Care & Protective Services

NEVER STRAY FROM HOPE.

Did you know ...

Recent estimates show that one in every three pets goes missing in their lifetime. But there is good news! You can help your pet and others find their way back home.

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Find a Pet?

Here's How to Help!

Most pets are found close to home. Rushing a pet to the local shelter is not always the best choice.

Look for identification such as a collar or tag.

Scan for a microchip. This is a tiny chip implanted in the skin that holds the owner's information. Shelters, veterinarians and most pet stores can assist.

Alert your neighbors. Use social media, post flyers, and try the app **Petco Love Lost** that uses facial recognition technology to help reunite pets and families.

Community Cats & Eartips

The top of a cat's ear is removed (or "tipped") during spay/neuter surgery as a sign that the cat is fixed.

These are not lost cats. Please do not remove them from their territory.



More Ways to Help Found Pets

If you found a dog, walk them around the block. You may find the owners during the search.

Place a brightly colored sign in your front yard or window. This will alert families who are looking on foot.

If you found a cat, watch and wait. Many families have indoor/outdoor cats who do not need your help.

Join local Facebook groups dedicated to lost pets.

Don't Kitnap Kittens!

If you find a litter of kittens, please leave them be.

Watch and wait.

The mother cat almost always returns. Their best chance of survival is to stay with her.

If you take the kittens, be prepared to see them through.

Contact your local veterinarian for support.

Find more tips at:

jaxhumane.org/kittenhelp



Working with Local Shelters

Always check with shelters in your area, online and in person, whenever possible.

Websites update in real time. Check often!



**JACKSONVILLE
HUMANE
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8464 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32216
jaxhumane.org

For Help with Lost/Found Pets:

Visit the Pet Help Center entrance
M - F 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sa-Su 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
904-725-8766 option 3
PetSafetyNet@jaxhumane.org



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2020 Forest St.
Jacksonville, FL 32204
coj.net/pets

For Help with Lost/Found Pets:

Visit the Pet Resource Center
Monday - Sunday, 12 p.m.- 5 p.m.
904-630-CITY (2489)
petsafetynet@coj.net

More Resources

- PetcoLoveLost.org
- Pawboost.com
- PetFBI.org
- [Facebook - "Lost Pets of Jacksonville, FL" Group](#)

What to Bring

- Bring a copy of your flyer if able.
- If your pet is found at the shelter, please bring proof of ownership, such as vet records or photos.
- A fee may be included to reclaim your pet, but it can be negotiated depending on the circumstance.

Help for Lost & Missing Pets

When looking for your pet, remember they are scared and may act differently than they do at home.

If you spot your pet, do not chase. Be prepared with a leash and treats. Try sitting or crouching, offering treats and softly calling for your pet.

Alert your neighbors and anyone in the area.

Use social media including Facebook and Nextdoor.

You can also use the free app **Petco Love Lost!**



Post bright and colorful flyers in the area.

You can create a flyer for free using Found.org.

Tips for Posters and Flyers

Before you hang a flyer ...

- Is the picture clear and recognizable?
- Is your contact information included?
- Does it state LOST or FOUND?
- Did you use a bright color?
- Did you include the date?
- Are you offering a reward?
- Did you include details like spay/neuter or microchip?



MISSING DOG

Walter is a large, male mixed-breed dog. He is tan with a white chest. He was last seen in the Riverside neighborhood on February 1st. He is microchipped and neutered. Reward offered!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Adam Smith

Adam@gmail.com

(904) 123-4567

Microchips Are Lifesaving

- A microchip is a tiny circuit, the size of a grain of rice, that is implanted under the skin of an animal.
- Microchips contain owner information.
- Microchips are NOT location or GPS tracking devices.

You must register your pet's chip and keep it up to date. You can do this for free using petplace.com/pet-microchip-registry

- Chips are available at your veterinarian's office or Animal Care & Protective Services.
- Don't know your pet's microchip number? Come by either shelter and we will help you or you can call your veterinarian.

Lost dogs who have a microchip are 2.4 times more likely to be reunited with families and microchipped cats are 21 times more likely!

Protect Your Pets

- Make sure your pet has a proper ID tag and collar at all time.
- Spaying or neutering pets decreases their desire to roam. Free and affordable options are available.
- Check your fences for gaps/holes.
- Do not leave pets unattended.
- Always bring pets inside during fireworks or loud thunderstorms.
- If you are moving or having a party, secure your pets before leaving doors open.
- Take lots of pictures to use if your pet goes missing.
- Create a profile for your pet on Petco Love Lost, which uses facial recognition technology to reunite missing pets and owners!



*According to the Michelson Found Animal Foundation, 2021.

9 REASONS TO RETURN CATS TO THEIR HOMES



Think that outdoor cat is lost? Think again! The practice of returning cats to their outdoor territories saves lives and reunites cats with caretakers. Here are 9 reasons why this is the best option for cats in our community:

1 LESS THAN 4%

This is the national average for cats who are reunited with their owners after coming to a shelter. A cat's best chance at being found by its family is to stay close to home.

2 NON-TRADITIONAL HOMES

Not all cats need or want a traditional home. Some outdoor cats have several caretakers who provide food, water and shelter, often calling more than one house "home."

3 HEALTH & HAPPINESS

Cats who are adjusted to living outdoors do not thrive in the shelter, especially when placed into kennels. This causes them extreme stress which leads to illness and can prolong any chance at adoption.

4 BEHAVIOR

Forcing a cat from its outdoor habitat into a shelter setting can lead to unwanted behavior, including biting and scratching. This puts cats in the shelter at risk.

5 KITTEN OVERLOAD

Underage, orphaned kittens flood our community shelters by the thousands every year. Returning healthy adult cats to their homes leaves room for babies in need.

6 SPAY & NEUTER

After sterilization surgery, cats can no longer reproduce! This helps control the cat population and prevents unwanted litters. The vaccinations will also prevent the spread of disease.

7 COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Studies show that a sterilized cat in your neighborhood is a deterrent to other cats. Cats who are spayed or neutered are also less likely to spray, fight, roam, and reproduce.

8 SUPPORT WILDLIFE

Studies show that outdoor cats with caretakers who provide food are less likely to disturb wildlife, while also keeping other cats away and stopping the birth cycle of more felines.

9 EXPERTS AGREE

Return to home is endorsed by Best Friends Animal Society, Million Cat Challenge, Alley Cat Allies and Maddie's Fund.

You Make Reunions Happen...

Every year, Jacksonville shelters take in more than 16,000 pets.

Keeping pets and people together is what makes Jacksonville so special.

With a loving donation, you provide dogs, cats, puppies and kittens with the second chance they deserve.

Visit jaxhumane.org/donate or call 904.725.8766 to give today.



Jessi reunited with her owner, 2026

More Helpful Tips to Find Lost Pets

FINDING DOGS

- Leave dog's bedding or something with your scent (clothing) near the area the dog was last seen.
- Bring a slip lead leash with you while you search.
- If you see your dog, do not chase.
- Use treats and stay calm.
- Bring their favorite toy or dry treats to shake.



FINDING CATS

- Search in a pattern during quieter times of day starting closest to your home.
 - Indoor lost cats are most often found in their house, on their own property or within 5 houses of their home. Outdoor and Indoor/Outdoor cats will travel further.
- Repeatedly look under nearby porches and sheds, in plants, and any other place your cat may climb, squeeze into or hide. Cats may change hiding spots so recheck areas often.
- Check all furniture, cabinets, closets and any other small spaces in your own home, even if your cat normally responds to being called or being offered food or treats.
- Consider a humane trap with their favorite smelly food, your cat's bedding or something with your scent (clothing) near your home.
- Ask local community caregivers if your cat has been seen with their colony when they feed in the evenings.

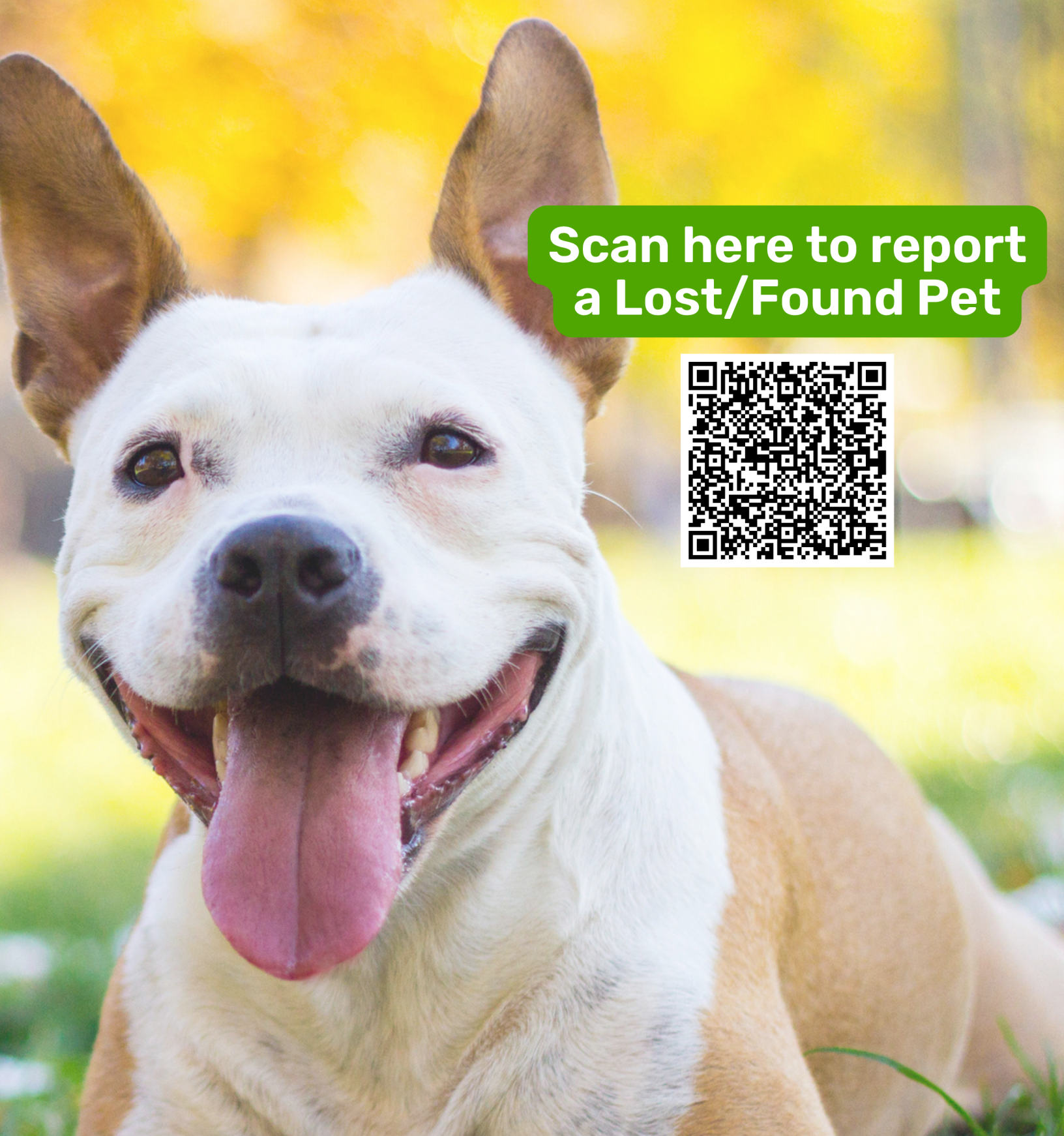
MYTH:

Dirty litterboxes placed outside will attract a cat to come back home.

FACT:

Dirty litterboxes can attract other animals which is likely to deter your cat.





Scan here to report
a Lost/Found Pet



STAY CONNECTED

@jaxhumane

@jaxacps @cityofjax

