

## Lost Pets

By Mary J. Getten, Telepathic Animal Communicator

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I'd like to address the subject of **LOST PETS** in this issue. I get calls every week from people who have lost their beloved and usually they are not thinking clearly. I hope the following tips will give you some ideas of what to do now, prevent a loss in the future, or help you in an emergency situation.

**Prevention** is one key to keeping your pet safe.

1. Pet-proof your yard and check your fence and gates frequently for escape routes.
2. Train dogs and cats to come on command, maybe with a whistle that carries some distance.
3. Keep a collar on your pet with its name, a license and your current phone number. (*Dear Jubilee Note: be sure it is a collar that will not choke your dog if it is caught on something*)
4. If you are moving, get new ID made and on the animal before you move. This is a common time to lose pets.
5. Crate or buckle your dog in the car so they don't escape after an accident.
6. Always transport your cat or bird in a carrier.
7. Leash your dog and be vigilant in unfamiliar situations, such as on vacation.
8. Permanent ID with tattoos or microchips may be helpful but they are often missed.
9. Take good close-up photos of your pets every year and keep them in a handy place in case you need them for flyers.

**Finding a lost pet** can be difficult but I've been seen dogs and cats reunite with their people sometimes months later. It's important to stay calm and enlist a friend to help in your search.

Don't assume that the animal has run away, is dead, found another home or is mad at you. If you think your pet was stolen, call the police immediately and make a report.

Starting your search right away saves valuable time. Search your property inside and out, thoroughly looking into every nook and cranny and under and behind everything with a good flashlight. Cats often crawl into little spaces high and low. Walk your neighborhood and talk to everyone asking them to check sheds, garages and areas around and under their homes. Offer a reward to the local children. Make a noise as you walk that your pet will recognize. Frightened cats will often NOT respond to your call.

Make a flyer with a good photo that says LOST with the date, location and your phone number. Put REWARD on the flyer, but don't specify an amount. Flyers produce more returned animals than anything else. Post them at stores, bulletin boards, telephone poles, restaurants, schools, everywhere you can. Give flyers to vets, groomers, neighbors, animal shelters, mail carriers, delivery personnel, local and state road crews, and animal

control. Visit the shelter and call vets each day. They are too busy to remember. Place ads in the newspapers and call local radio and cable TV stations.

Sit quietly at home in a meditative state and picture doors opening on your heart. See a golden cord going out of your heart connecting to your pet. Call them mentally and tell them to follow the cord home. Keep calling and picturing them walking in the door. If they are lost or off on an adventure, making this energy connection will help them find their way back.

Don't give up and keep expanding your search further from home. Dogs and cats can travel many miles when lost. Post photos on Internet sites and go to [www.pet-detective.com](http://www.pet-detective.com) or [www.petrescue.com](http://www.petrescue.com) for more info.