

# Lost Cat Tips



## INDOOR ONLY CATS

When indoor cats escape, they will immediately go into self preservation mode and hide. Calling their name or chasing them will usually push them further away from home, so we do not recommend those methods. If your cat usually responds to a can of food opening or the treat bag shaking, you can try this softly to see if they come to you.

When indoor cats get outside, they will beeline for the nearest hiding spot; sit on the ground outside the door the cat escaped from and look around– what is the most direct route to a hiding space? Is there a low bush, deck or other structure they could be hiding under?

If you can't see your cat, you should seek out a humane trap to set (Lowell Humane Society has these for a refundable deposit, you will get your deposit back when you return the trap). \*The faster you set a trap, the less likely the cat is to wander away from your property!

## OUTDOOR/INDOOR CATS

Cats who have regular access to the outdoors will sometimes wander too far if they are chased off by a neighborhood dog or wildlife or a scary noise. It's also possible they have been taken in by a well meaning neighbor who think the cat has been lost or abandoned.

## ALL LOST CATS

**Hang Fliers** in the neighborhood. Walk around, talk to everyone and hang fliers with a large photo of your cat, MISSING and your phone number. You want a large photo, limit info to MISSING and your phone number so people can see your cat and remember what they look like. Hang fliers as many fliers as you can, minimum 100 and hang them on all major roads near by. Remember that cats who get spooked or chased by an animal may run quite far away. Sometimes well meaning neighbors will take your cat in, thinking that they are lost.

### **Animal Control, Veterinarians, Animal Shelters**

Be sure to get a copy of the flier to your Animal Control Officer, Veterinarians and Animal Shelters in your area. Don't limit to just your city/town, contact all area ACO, Vets and Shelters and get them a flier asap.

## **TRAPPING**

- Set the trap in a quiet area where there isn't much foot traffic (Under bushes, deck, behind a shed).
- Line trap with newspaper, cardboard or a thin hand-towel.
- Use stinky canned food/tuna/ sardines, place in back of trap. Be sure it does not interfere with trip plate.
- Cover most of trap with a towel or sheet.
- Be sure to monitor the trap– NEVER leave trap set unattended. Check trap every 15-20 minutes.
- If you catch wildlife, hold a blanket or sheet in front of you and slowly approach trap; open back door of trap and wait for wildlife to run off.
- When you do catch your cat, keep in trap and covered until you are INDOORS. Pick up trap from BOTH ENDS (don't use the handle in the middle). Only open trap once you are indoors IF it is your cat!