

SEARCH TIPS (Lost Cats)

- **Start your search as soon as you realize your cat is missing.** They are likely not too far from home (3 to 4 houses) but if they go out regularly, you'll have to search a wider area (e.g. 3 block radius).
- **Put up posters** on nearby telephone poles, posts and mailboxes, and tuck flyers into door handles, etc. Posting flyers is one of the best known and most effective methods of getting your lost cat back. Be specific with the information on your poster and include a recent photo.
- **Check under cars, hedges, stairs, decks, etc.** and ask neighbours if you can check their backyards (you'll look harder for your cat than they will and your cat will know your voice). Ask neighbours to also check their garages and sheds as your cat may have been trapped inside. Look up as well as under (he/she may be up a tree). When lost, cats will generally find a place to hide (small, dark places) and often will stay quiet and not come even if they recognize your voice.
- Put your cat's blanket, bed, etc. outside by the door he/she got out of. Do NOT put food or litter boxes outside as this attracts other animals and predators).
- **Go out at night** with a flashlight and a bag of treats and look for "eye shine". Your cat is most likely to come out at night when it is quieter and is less scared of additional noises, eg from cars, and can hear your voice. If you see your cat, approach slowly, quietly and lure him/her to you. Your cat will be scared and you don't want to spook him/her into running.
- **Contact local veterinarians** to see if your cat was brought to them.
- **Call 24 Pet Watch at 1-866-375-7387** if your cat is microchipped to ensure the information attached to the chip is up to date.
- **Contact the following shelters**, as applicable:
 - In Burlington, call Burlington Animal Control (**905-335-7777 ext. 0**); we recommend you call them daily.
 - In Oakville, call the Oakville-Milton Humane Society to file a Lost Pet Report (**905-845-1551**) or file a report via their website: [Lost & Found - Oakville & Milton Humane Society \(omhs.ca\)](http://omhs.ca)
 - In Milton, call Milton Animal Services (**905-878-7252, ext. 2254**) to report your pet missing or file a report via their website: [Animal Services - Town of Milton](http://miltonanimal.com)
 - In Hamilton, call Hamilton Animal Services (**905-574-3433**) or file a Lost Report on their website: [Lost, Found or Surrender | City of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada](http://www.hamilton.ca/lost-found)
- List your cat on the following **websites and other social media 'Lost Pet' sites** specific to your area:
 - PetFBI.org - [The Free Information Center for Lost and Found Pets](http://TheFreeInformationCenterforLostandFoundPets.com) - this is an excellent resource for assisting in finding lost pets and offers a template for creating a poster/handout.
 - Petango.com
 - "Lost and Found Pets of Ontario" - Facebook page (in partnership with PetFBI): <https://www.facebook.com/LostPetsOntario/>
- Don't give up - it can take a couple of weeks or longer for your cat to come home. Using the tips posted above, and with the help of your community, gives you the best chance of getting your fur-baby home.