

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

How to Find a Lost Pet

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

When a pet wanders off, you often spend years thinking about what might have happened. To help you avoid this terrible tragedy, there are three steps you should take.

- **Always keep a collar and a tag on your pet** with your name, phone number, and address on it. If your pet can't wear a collar, you may want to look into having an ID number tattooed on your pet or having a microchip inserted.
- **Invest in a fenced-in yard.** Allowing your pet to roam the neighborhood is not only dangerous for your pet, but it will always cause some friction between you and your neighbors.
- **Always have your pet spayed or neutered.** Not only does this prevent unwanted litters, cancer, and infections, it is also helpful in keeping pets at home.

If something happens and you realize your pet is missing, here are some suggestions:

* First of all, **never assume your pet was stolen and give up the search right away.** Usually, your pet has simply wandered off in search of companionship.

If anyone has "stolen" your pet it is most likely an Animal Control Officer or a well meaning Good Samaritan that is trying to help what looks like a homeless stray, or abandoned animal. Most lost pets are less than a mile from home, so be sure to search the area and call or talk to all your neighbors.

* **Check with the local Animal Shelters and veterinarians** to see if your pet has been brought to them.

* **Put ads in the local papers** and make signs to post in the neighborhood. Most newspapers print "Lost and Found" ads for free.

* If your pet was lost while you were traveling with him, **leave an article of your clothing and some food and water where your pet was last seen and go back to check it regularly.**

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

* If your pet is very skittish and won't allow people to easily approach, **rent or buy a humane cage trap (Have-A-Heart trap) to catch him in** and be sure to check it every day.

As usual, prevention is always better than trying to deal with the problem after it happens. If you have any questions please call the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 🏥