

Helpful Hints

If you are missing a pet, please use these helpful tips to increase your chances of reunion with your missing pet.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Texas law states that after a stray pet goes 72 hours unclaimed, ownership falls to the pet's current caretaker (a.k.a. GIHS) and the pet can legally be placed up for adoption. *It is of utmost importance that you check frequently for your lost pet!!!*

- **File a Lost Report:** Call GIHS at 409-740-1919. We will ask you questions about your pet, as well as the time, place, and details about your pet getting lost. A visit to GIHS is suggested in addition to your phone call.
- **Check GIHS's Lost Pet Listing:** **Click here** to see all of the pets who have entered GIHS recently. Make sure you check back for your pet EVERYDAY. Texas law states that after 72 hours of being in the shelter, a stray pet then becomes the property of the caretaker and can be placed up for adoption. GIHS extends the stray hold time for pets that are microchipped or wearing identification tags, or those who were adopted from our shelter but during busy periods, we may go down to the State law required 72 hour stray hold.
- **Update Microchip Information:** If your pet is microchipped and you have had ANY change in phone number, address, or any other information, please contact your pet's microchip company ASAP to update that information and/or verify that it is correct. You will need your pet's microchip number and a small fee may apply, depending on the company. Up-to-date information is a MUST because when we scan your pet for a microchip, all we read is a number which is then plugged into a database with the given information in it. GIHS staff strives to find owners with out-of-date information, however, current and accurate information all but guarantees that if your pet ends up here, it can be easily returned to you! Remember, microchips can be read by many organizations, so do not depend on your local shelter, they must be current.
- **Create "Lost" Posters:** Create your own "Lost" poster and hang it around your neighborhood, down main roadways, place in mailboxes, take to vet clinics, and submit one to GIHS for display in our Lost & Found lobby. Recent, full-color pictures are best, but make sure any picture you use is crisp and clear.
- **Post "Lost" Listings:** Take advantage of all on-line outlets, such as Facebook, Craigslist, Findtoto.com, etc. where you are able to post information about your pet, when and where he/she went missing and any other pertinent information (i.e. any required medications, identifying marks, etc.). Be creative! Post your pet's story anywhere and everywhere you can!

- **Search “Found” Listings:** Check local newspaper classified listings, and the same online outlets where you posted your “Lost” information. If you think you have found your pet in a listing through any outlet, make sure you act quickly to reclaim your pet!
- **Getting Desperate?:** There are several companies who specialize in helping to reunite worried owners with their lost pets. FindToto.com, HomeAgain.com, and LostMyDoggie.com are just a few of these companies. Make sure you mention that the Galveston Island Humane Society sent you and some of these companies will make a donation to GIHS in your lost pet’s name!
- **Get Social!:** Post your Lost Pet’s information on Facebook, Twitter, and any other social media site. Ask your friends to share your pet’s info. Get creative and spread the word! You never know who may have seen or picked up your lost pet! Remember to note information about your pet, when and where he/she went missing and any other pertinent information (i.e. any required medications, identifying marks, etc.).
- **Put Up A Yard Sign:** Put up a sign in your yard with a picture and description of your pet! Many concerned citizens who find lost pets will wind through nearby areas looking for the owners of the animals they have picked up. Even if your pet’s collar has fallen off, this gives citizens another clue to where a lost pet came from.
- **Tag Your Car:** Write brief “Lost Pet” messages on your car windows to let your neighbors and other passers-by that you are missing a pet!
- If you are able to offer a reward, it may be motivational for people to look for your pet.