

# BRING THEM *home*



The Humane Society of  
& Kitchener Waterloo  
& Stratford Perth



# INDEX



[Click to return to index](#)





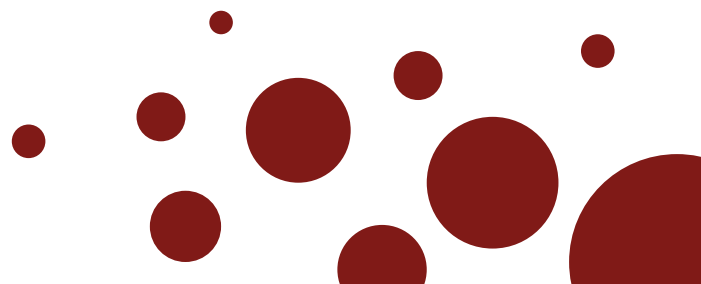


# PET REUNIFICATION



## The “Bring Them Home” Campaign

We love our pets. They are our companions, our friends, our family members. We would do anything and everything possible to keep them safe, but what should we do if the unthinkable happens? The gate is left open, the front door is left ajar, the collar slips off. These situations are never something a pet owner wants to encounter, but despite our best efforts, it does happen. Here at **The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth**, keeping people and pets together is a key priority. With the “Bring Them Home” campaign, we want to provide community members with the critical steps to take when a pet is lost or found. With quick action and the support of our communities, we strongly believe lost pets will no longer remain lost for long.





# LOST A PET

## Act Quickly

Sometimes a pet's instinct to wander can take over. In the event of a pet getting loose or going missing, there are some important things to consider. Here is a list of steps you can take when searching for a lost pet.

1. Contact your local **humane society** or animal services provider and fill out a **lost pet report**. If someone has already brought a stray pet into the shelter, they may be able to identify your animal right away.
2. Ask your friends and family to help you search the neighbourhood. Chances are your pet has not ventured far. The majority of lost pets are found within 1 kilometre of their home. Try searching in sheds, garages, bushes, and under decks as a scared pet may want to hide in one of these places.
3. Post on social media. There are many local **Facebook pages** within the community. Posting a photo or description of your pet on one of these pages will help spread the word and alert community members to keep an eye out for your lost pet.
4. Call your veterinarian and inform them of what's happened. Your pet's rabies number can be tracked back to your vet.
5. Put up "lost pet" posters in your community. This is especially helpful if you include a photo of your pet.





# FOUND A DOG

## Think “Home Bound Hound”

If you see a dog wandering around on its own, chances are they’ve simply ventured away from a loving home. They likely would not have strayed too far from their home and their owner could be close by. Here are some tips you can follow to help return them home.

1. Check for a collar or any identification tags. This could be a tag with a name and number, or a license tag. Your local **humane society** or animal services provider will be able to link the number on a license tag with the lost dog’s owner.
2. Contact your local humane society or animal services provider to fill out a **found animal report**. They may already have a missing dog report from someone waiting to bring their lost pet home.
3. Try searching the neighbourhood in which the lost dog was found to see if someone is looking for them or if anyone recognizes them. You could even try knocking on your neighbours’ doors if you feel comfortable doing so.
4. Post a photo of the lost dog on social media along with a brief description and the area they were found.
5. If you’re able to, keep the lost dog in a safe place at your home. Chances are their owner is close by.
6. Put posters up in the area where the lost dog was found. Include a photo and a contact phone number.
7. If you are unable to locate the lost dog’s owner and are unable to house them, contact your local **humane society** or animal services provider and arrange to bring the dog in. They will be equipped with scanners should the lost dog have a microchip.





# FOUND A CAT

## Think “The Cat Came Back”

While finding a dog wandering on its own is normally an indicator that they're lost, cats are a bit different. A cat outside does not necessarily mean they are lost and finders should ensure they aren't hastily removing a cat from what could be its home neighbourhood. Here are some tips you can follow if you find a cat outdoors.

1. If the cat seems healthy, leave them where they are. This may sound harsh, but chances are the cat is not actually lost and most likely has a home and owners who will be looking for them if they are picked up and taken away.
2. Check for a collar and ID tags. This is a clear indicator that the cat does have a home that they will return to.
3. Contact your local **humane society** or animal services provider to fill out a found pet report (confined cats only).
4. Search the neighbourhood and ask neighbours if they are missing their cat.
5. If you feel the cat needs help or is truly lost, call your local **humane society** or animal services provider.
6. Post photos on social media along with the location where the cat was found.
7. Bring the cat into your local **humane society** or animal services provider where they can scan for a microchip and house the cat if necessary.



**NOTE:** cats could be a community cat (feral/wild cat that lives outside and may or may not have a caretaker), an owned barn buddy or indoor/outdoor cat, or a stray cat (owned, but lost and shouldn't be outdoors). Each municipality states what they allow when it comes to the care of cats and if they are allowed to roam free, be outside but not leave their property, or not be allowed outside at all. For more information, please check your municipal by-laws.



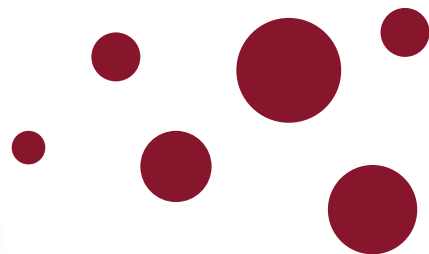


# FOUND A KITTEN

## Think “Kit-Napping”

Young Kittens need to be with their mother. They rely on her food and warmth. While our first instinct is to “save” kittens from the outside world, the best course of action may be to leave them where they are. Here are a few steps to consider if you find a litter of kittens.

1. Assess the kittens’ health. Do they look fed and healthy? If so, leave them where they are. If they look sickly or have parasites or flies around them, gently collect them in a carrier and contact your local veterinarian, **humane society** or animal services provider.
2. Monitor the kittens from a distance to see if their mom returns. Mother cats will leave their kittens for periods of time in order to search for food. If you witness a mother cat returning, leave the kittens where they are. They will be safest with their mother.
3. If you’re not able to watch for their mother to return, check to see if the kittens are in a safe place. They may have wandered from their nest or hiding spot. Find a safe place close by where mom can still find them and gently place them there.
4. If you have monitored the kittens for an extended period of time and there is no sign of their mother, gently collect the kittens and place them in a carrier. Contact your local veterinarian, **humane society**, or animal services provider for the next steps you can take to best care for the kittens.





# FOUND A PET

## Little Critters

Cats and dogs aren't the only animals who go missing. Small pets like rabbits, guinea pigs, and even birds can accidentally find themselves outside sometimes. In a situation where you come across a small pet, it's a good idea to follow similar steps as you would if you found a lost cat or dog.

1. Call your local **humane society** or animal services provider and fill out a found pet report.
2. If you're able to, safely contain the pet. Ask your neighbours if they are missing a pet or if they recognize the pet.
3. Post a photo of the animal on social media with a brief description and location of where you found the pet.
3. If you're unable to locate the pet's owner, contact your local **humane society** or animal services provider and arrange to bring the pet in. A rabbit may even have a microchip that can be scanned.







# PRECAUTIONS

What are the best ways to ensure our pets will be returned home should they go missing? Below are some simple and effective tips.

## Microchipping

Microchipping is the most convenient way to ensure your pet will always return home, should they go missing. **The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth** host weekly **microchipping clinics** at an affordable cost. The chip holds all of your contact information which ensures that if your pet is found, you will be contacted. If an animal is scared and their behaviour doesn't allow for microchip scanning right away, the humane society will continue to try and scan once the animal feels more at ease and the staff feels comfortable enough to do so. If your pet finds their way outside without a collar or ID tag, the **humane society** or your animal services provider will still be able to access your information. Administering a microchip is completely painless and does not require anesthesia. It's no different than having your pet receive their annual vaccines! Be sure to register your information and update your contact information should anything change.

## Collars and ID tags

Another simple prevention technique is ensuring your pet always wears a collar with an ID tag attached. It's important to have a current phone number on the tag so you can be reached immediately if a pet is found. This is especially important for cats. It helps people identify that your cat does, indeed, have a home and they do not need "rescuing." If you do not have an ID tag, your pet's rabies vaccine tag can be traced back to you, though it is recommended to have both. Not sure where to buy a tag? Many **local pet stores** will have engraving machines on site.





# PRECAUTIONS

## Back Yard Maintenance

If you have a fenced in yard, chances are your pet will be safe if you let them out. However, gaps and holes can occur in fences and it's important to routinely check for any weaknesses where your pet might be able to escape. It's also a good idea to check that any gates are latched shut. If you find a gap in the fence, patch it as best as you can until you can have it properly repaired.

## Long Lines

If you don't have a fenced yard, consider purchasing a long line for your pet to have the freedom to roam the yard with the safety of a tether. Always be sure to supervise your pet if they are outside on a **long line**. Note: Please check your local municipal bylaws regarding long lines.

## Spay/Neuter

Spaying or neutering your pet can help reduce their desire to wander. A pet's mating instinct may take over and entice them to go looking for a mate. While spaying/neutering is a good idea in general for your pet's overall well-being, minimizing your pet's urge to stray is an added bonus.





# CAT SAFETY

While it's not recommended to let cats freely roam the great outdoors for their own safety, there are ways to allow a cat to experience time outside while keeping them safe.

## Catios

Catios are outdoor enclosures made just for cats. They are usually built with wood and wire fencing. There are various styles and sizes that can either be purchased or even built yourself. There are a number of **tutorials** and **instructional plans** online. Not only do catios keep your cat safe from predators and the elements, it also keeps wildlife safe from your cat as cats have a high prey drive.

## Harness and Leashes

Dogs aren't the only pets to wear collars, harnesses, and leashes. There are many options available for cats as well.

Harnesses are the best choice for cats to ensure they don't slip out of it and run off. Be sure the harness is the right size and adjusted accordingly to your cat. Some cats may need time to become desensitized to a harness. Once you have the proper equipment, and your cat feels comfortable wearing a harness, you and your cat can go exploring!







# BRING THEM HOME



[kwsphumane.ca/bringthemhome](https://kwsphumane.ca/bringthemhome)