SCOTT COUNTY ANIMAL HOSPITAL, p.c. 115 S. 16th Street, Eldridge, IA 52748 scah@netins.net

LOST PET RECOVERY TIPS

These tips will aid you in the recovery of your lost pet. We understand how heart wrenching this situation is and want to provide you with quick but sound advice so your pet may be returned to you safely in as short a period of time as possible.

Signs: Order 11 x 14 inch laminated posters from an office supply store or printer who is able to fulfill the order quickly. Staple them to a stake and zip tie them to posts in your area and the area where your pet was last seen.

Social Media: Place a lost pet ad on Craigslist. Post a missing pet notice on your Facebook page. Take out a Facebook ad and filter it down to the immediate area.

Animal Agencies: Visit your local animal control and humane societies. We recommend that you actually go there and walk through looking for your pet in addition to giving them a missing pet poster. Local veterinary clinics should be notified as they may see the pet if injured and have the microchip scanners to search for a microchip. In addition, if there is a Rabies tag on your pet's collar, the number may be registered at the veterinary clinic that gave the Rabies vaccination. We do not recommend relying on the Rabies tag as a form of identification as the information cannot be retrieved on nights and weekends when the business is closed.

Microchip Tips: Ensure your pet's microchip is registered with a national registry. Pets microchipped by Scott County Animal Hospital are registered with Home Again, 888-466-3242. Contact them as soon as you realize the pet is lost. Some provide an active pet recovery service which will notify volunteers and veterinary clinics that your pet is missing. You should upload a photo of your pet when you register as some provide flyers with a photo and phone number to quickly download when your pet is lost. Be sure to provide up to date and multiple contact numbers. Add a name or number not in your area so someone may be contacted if the local phone or cellular service is shut down from a tornado or other disaster.

Pet Tracking: Professional pet trackers are available to hire with dogs trained to track your pet's scent.

Tips taken from Chasing Rylee: The search for a runaway dog by Dr. Jan Bellows as published in dvm360 magazine.