

What to do when you've **Lost Your Pet**

A practical guide to help reunite
you and your four legged friends



Identification is Key

 Never underestimate the value of your pet's ID tag! It is the single most important thing you can do to ensure that your pet can be identified and returned home. It is cheap and readily available.

 Microchip! It is a permanent means of identification, so your pet will never lose it! In addition, if properly registered and updated, it is proof that you are the owner of the animal.

Spread the Word

The more people know, the better your chances are of recovering your pet. Take out an ad in your local newspapers, craigslist, online ads, City, County and SPCA Facebook pages, local rescue pages, and personal social media pages. These can be the most effective way for listing lost animals. Be sure to provide the following information:

 **Where the animal was lost:** City and major cross streets are best

 **When the animal was lost:** Date is important and general time of day lost if known

 **A description:** Name, age, approximate size, color(s), weight and sex. Giving the breed or species name is not enough. Be very specific especially with unusual markings, and mention if the animal was wearing tags or has a microchip

 **Contact Information:** You have to include contact information. The more the better! Name, phone number(s) and email are highly suggested

 **Other Information:** The circumstances of how the animal was lost can be helpful if known. For instance, if your dog was frightened by fireworks, your animal may have spent quite a while running. If you're offering a reward, this is where it would be mentioned

Create a Flyer

You don't need anything fancy to get the word out about your lost pet! Grab a piece of paper and a marker, and get to work! All you really need is:

 A clear, recent photo of your pet

 A phone number where someone will answer calls, or an answering machine

 **Create a Free Printable Flyer Here** <http://www.petbond.com/flyerentry.php?oid=bf>

Remember, creating a flyer is just a small part of your efforts to locate your lost pet.

Now, the work begins!

Kern County Animal Services, 3951 Fruitvale Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308 (661) 868-7100



Distribute your Flyers

Flyers can be posted in local pet shops, shelters, grooming businesses, veterinarians, or any other pet friendly place (with permission from the business owner).



Knock on doors: Talk to people in the neighborhood, delivery drivers, and even families who are walking in the area



Hand out flyers: With your pet's picture on them and your contact information



Deliver flyers: Make sure your local shelters and any rescue have your flyers with all pertinent information

Go to the Shelters - Don't Just Call!



Your pet may not yet be listed in the records at the front desk, and the way you describe your pet may not be the way a shelter describes your pet. Sometimes it takes more than a few days for a pet to be picked up and brought to a shelter. Check the shelter's website (www.co.kern.ca.us/acd). Physically checking the shelter can yield better results.



It's important to visit all the shelters within 20 miles of where your pet was lost. If someone took your pet in for a few days hoping you would knock on their door and ask about it, they might later drop your pet off at the shelter that's most convenient for them, rather than one that's closest to you.

And don't give up!

Kern County Animal Services Shelter Locations

3951 Fruitvale Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 868-7100

923 Poole Street
Mojave Airport
Mojave, CA 93501
(661) 824-1030

14891 Highway 178
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 378-1131

Other Agencies & Shelters in Kern County

Arvin City Animal Control
(661) 854-5583

McFarland City Animal Control & Shelter
(661) 792-2121

Bakersfield City Animal Control & Shelter
(661) 326-3436 Animal Control
(661) 832-7387 Shelter

Ridgecrest City Animal Control & Shelter
(760) 499-5190

Bakersfield SPCA
(661) 323-8353

Shafter City Animal Control & Shelter
(661) 746-8500 Animal Control
(661) 746-2140 Shelter

Cal City Animal Control & Shelter
(760) 373-8606 Animal Control
(760) 373-1115 Shelter

Taft City Animal Control & Shelter
(661) 763-3101 Animal Control
(661) 763-1227 Shelter

Delano City Animal Control & Shelter
(661) 721-3377

Wasco City Animal Control & Shelter
(661) 758-7240

Kern County Animal Services

3951 Fruitvale Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 868-7100 www.co.kern.ca.us/acd

