

Tips to help you find your lost pet.

Even the most responsible pet owners may be faced with the problem of a lost pet. Here are some tips from Marion County Animal Services to help find your lost friend.

As the owner of a lost pet, you should do the following:

1. Search for your lost pet on our website every day to view all of our strays. It is updated hourly.
2. Post a lost pet ad online by clicking "Register lost pets." (We don't keep a physical list at the Animal Center; due to the overwhelming number of stray animals housed at this shelter, we simply could not maintain such a list).
3. Come into the Animal Center to look for your pet. Continue to visit until it's found.
4. Update your personal information in the Animal Services database by calling 352-671-8700. Include your name, address, two or three phone numbers and a valid email address.
5. If your pet has been microchipped, call the national microchip registry to update or to confirm your contact information is accurate.
6. Contact the Humane Society of Marion County at 352-873-PETS. Although it's not the governing animal control agency, it does take in a few stray animals.
7. Visit sites such as www.facebook.com/marioncountylostfound, www.Craigslist.com, www.Petfinder.com and www.Ocala4sale.com to post an ad and look through found ads. Check the Ocala Star-Banner and www.Ocala.com for found ads.
8. Post fliers at grocery stores, veterinary clinics, neighborhoods, churches and all places that large amounts of people visit.
9. Don't give up; many times people find lost animals and keep them for weeks before bringing them to the Animal Center.

Once your pet has been found:

1. Microchip it! Marion County Animal Services offers microchips for only \$15, which includes national registration. No appointment necessary; just visit with your pet anytime during the Animal Center's business hours. Veterinary clinics also offer microchipping services.
2. Make sure your pet is always wearing its collar and county license tag. (Regularly check the fit to ensure your pet hasn't outgrown the collar. Make sure you can fit two fingers between your pet's neck and the collar.)
3. Purchase an engraved tag that includes two telephone numbers. These tags are less than \$10 and available at stores such as PetSmart, PetCo and WalMart. They take less than five minutes to make at an engraving machine.
4. If you move or change your telephone number, call Animal Services and the national microchip registry.



Marion
County
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Marion County Animal Services

5701 SE 66th St.

Ocala, FL 34480

352-671-8700

www.MarionCountyFL.org/animal

