Lost and Found Cats

According to a study published in [Animals in 2018](#):

- 15% of cat owners lose their cat
- 30% of lost cats are found within 7 days
- 75% of lost cats are found within 500 meters from home
- 75% of indoor-only lost cats are found within 137 meters from home

If your cat is lost, this research suggests to consider his or her personality and experience outdoors, and conduct a slow, meticulous search near your home, calling their name, as soon as possible.

If you can't find your cat within 24 hours:

- Talk to neighbors
- Hang flyers in your neighborhood and post on social media sites like [Lost Pets of SLO County](#)
- Report your lost cat to [SLO County Animal Services](#)
- Leave treats, food, their blankets or their litterbox outside your door to lure them back home
- Keep looking!

To avoid losing your cat, consider:

- Keeping your cat indoors
- Making sure your cat has a collar and microchip
- Leash-training your cat for outings
- Building an enclosed catio
- Using GPS tracking collars like [Tractive](#)
- Spay or neuter your cat to reduce the urge to roam
- Keep your cat happy at home with enrichment toys and play-time

If you find a lost cat: First consider if the cat is a lost pet or a feral cat or community cat. To tell the difference, [use these Alley Cat tips.](#) If it is a community cat, consider [making a subsidized spay/neuter appointment for it.](#)

If it is a lost pet cat:

- Check for a collar or microchip
- Ask neighbors if they know the cat
- Hang flyers and post on social media sites like Lost Pets of SLO County
- Report the found cat to SLO County Animal Services
- Consider keeping, rehoming, or [surrendering](#) the cat if no owner is found
- If you keep or foster the cat, remember to have it examined by a vet and spayed or neutered