

LOST AND FOUND PETS IN THE COMMONS: WHAT TO DO

The very best thing you can do for your pet is to always keep a form of ID on her by means of a collar and a tag with your phone number. Microchipping is extra insurance. If your pet loses her collar while out and about, her finder can have her scanned at most any veterinarian clinic or Petco, free of charge and you will be notified of her whereabouts and who has her.

If you LOSE your pet in The Commons:

- Immediately post a picture, the area (street) lost from and **YOUR PHONE #** (never rely on Facebook or neighborhood app posts to alert you to the location of your pet if found) to the following online network pages:
- FACEBOOK PAGES:
 - *The Commons of Lake Houston Community Events and Information*
 - *Commons of Lake Houston Lost and Found Pets*
 - *Huffman Commons Lost & Found Pets*
 - *Lost and Found Pets – Porter, New Caney, Huffman & Splendora*
 - *Huffman Commons Property Owners Forum*
 - *Any of the “Huffman” pages (simply put the word Huffman in the search area and several will pop up)*
- The Commons “nabrnetwork” app (This is the official online communication tool for The Commons of Lake Houston)
- The “Nextdoor.com” app is also a great tool for locating lost/found pets and can include neighborhoods near TCOLH
- Notify neighbors – pass out flyers with a picture and contact info
- Supply your mail person with a flyer – they cover the entire neighborhood
- Most of the local convenience stores and restaurants will allow you to post a flyer near their entrance/exit
- If your pet is microchipped notify the chip company. Most companies will notify your area veterinarians. Also verify that your chip company has your CORRECT contact info.
- Notify YOUR vet and nearby vets (call nearby vets and either send or deliver a flyer with your pet’s photo and your info on it)
- For lost indoor cats, put their litter box on your porch. Cats can smell and recognize their own litterbox up to a mile away.

Never hesitate to ask for help via The Commons App (our official “nabrnetwork” site) in searching for your pet. We have many neighbors that are happy to help. It’s important to get the word out and begin searching quickly. It doesn’t take long for a pet to leave The Commons area. Remember that we have a lot of wildlife here and it can become very dangerous for your pet, especially the small ones, once darkness sets in.

If you FIND a lost pet in The Commons or surrounding areas:

- Follow the same online posting suggestions as you would for a lost pet, except of course list as a “found” pet. Again, please supply your phone number. The owner may not be able to contact you on Facebook.
- Take the found pet to any vet to have it checked (free of charge) for a microchip. Don’t think that simply because it may not be a pure bred animal it won’t have a chip. Most “all breed” rescue organizations now chip their pets before they are adopted out. Petco can also check for a chip.
- DO NOT give away all the identifying info about a pet. Make certain anyone claiming to own her can correctly ID her on their own.

In the event that an owner is not located for a found pet, please consider working through one of the many companion animal rescues in the area to rehome her. Unfortunately, county and municipal animal control agencies have extremely high kill rates. A rescue will provide the necessary veterinary care needed and make certain that she is placed in a loving responsible home where she will be well cared for. Please understand that most rescues rely heavily on wonderful people who are willing to open their hearts and homes to these pets while the rescue works to find that perfect home. The foster homes that work within the rescues are typically full. You may be asked to hang on to the animal until they have an opening. Fostering a homeless pet is an incredibly rewarding experience and you will have the full support of the rescue and the other experienced foster families every step of the way.

Here are links to two very comprehensive lists of area rescues:

- <http://mix965houston.cbslocal.com/2016/03/17/heres-a-list-of-houston-area-dog-rescue-organizations/>
- <http://hadr-tx.org/>