

MISSING CAT RECOVERY TIPS

Indoor Only Cats:

- Cats are extremely territorial and the territory of an indoor only cat is often only inside
- They are also extremely scent oriented so be sure to take that into account
- An indoor only cat who has gotten outside may become tremendously fearful of his new surroundings and look for the first place that offers protection or camouflage and hide in silence
- Due to the fear, cats likely will not come when called
- A majority of indoor only cats are found within a 5-home radius of where he went missing from
- Immediate search should be in the vicinity of his home and yard if applicable, then broaden
- Check under cars, decks and gardening supplies/equipment, etc. since cats can fit into the smallest of spaces- leave no stone unturned
- In addition to leaving out food and water for your cat, leaving out his/her used (do not clean it out) litter box and a blanket with his scent and yours may help him find his way back home
- While going door to door ask if they would be willing to let you look under their deck/around their yard and garage
- If you have a garage consider leaving it open slightly so that your cat may find his way in
- Humane traps are effective and should be considered and placed within a close proximity to your home or where sightings have occurred

Outdoor Access Cats:

- Cats with access to the outdoors will have a larger territory than indoor only cats, so focus on the areas you know your cat has been known to be
- Outdoor access cats are likely within their territory so be sure to conduct a detailed search
- If your cat was chased by a dog or a predator, he may have gone outside his natural territory and is hiding due to fear and disorientation
- Humane traps are effective with outdoor access cats as well, however be sure to place the traps where you can monitor them via sight or wildlife camera
- If using a wildlife camera be sure you can reach the trap quickly should any animal be caught to prevent harm to the animal via weather or predators

General Tips:

- Cats are crepuscular, which means they are most active during dawn and dusk, try to conduct extra searches during these hours and speak with people
- During the evening/night hours, use a flashlight to look for the 'eye shine' of cats
- To ensure a thorough search, ask neighbors if you can search their yards
- Shy, skittish or fearful cats in general often exhibits behaviors most people think to be that of a feral cat so be sure to check with animal control frequently
- Check with shelters frequently, visiting as often as you can in case your cat has been brought in
- Ask neighbors with garages if they would leave their door open slightly along with placing a blanket and food/water