



## REDWOOD COAST HUMANE SOCIETY

Serving Animals on the Redwood Coast

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[www.redwoodcoasthumane.org](http://www.redwoodcoasthumane.org) or on Facebook

Jake's Place (Animal Shelter and Adoption Center)

39151 S. Hwy. 1 in Gualala

Open Friday thru Sunday 12-3pm

The Redwood Coast Humane Society is a 100% volunteer 501(C)3 (non-profit) organization located on the Redwood Coast of Northern California serving the needs of local animals and pet owners.

### OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Redwood Coast Humane Society to advocate for the welfare, rights, respect and protection of all animals through care, intervention and education.

### OUR GOALS

- To provide temporary, foster and medical care for animals that are surrendered, abandoned, injured or rescued.
- To locate permanent homes for companion animals through adoption programs.
- To control dog and cat populations by providing financial assistance for and education about spay/neuter services.
- To act as an information resource for a variety of animal related issues, including lost and found, feral cat management, referrals and counseling.
- To educate the public on animal related issues through workshops, special events and publications.
- To develop and sustain a skilled volunteer network to support the organization's activities.
- To attain financial resources through fundraising activities to support our mission and goals.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CAT GOES MISSING

It's a melancholy day when you realize your beloved cat is not at home where he should be. If this happens, there are actions you can take to increase your chances the cat will be found. But before it happens, consider these ways to avoid loss or help find your cat who has been lost:

- 1) Have your cat microchipped. Microchips can be inserted by a veterinarian or the Mendocino County Care-a-Van can insert one for a fee of around \$25. Be sure to register the microchip. Microchip companies offer various services for an ongoing fee; however, it is not necessary to pay a fee to register your cat in their database.
- 2) Keep a photograph of your cat which shows her full body, colors and markings.
- 3) Place a breakaway collar and tag with your phone number on the cat.
- 4) Have your cat spayed or neutered. This will keep cats, especially males, closer to home.
- 5) Be sure to use a carrier any time you are transporting a cat outside its home or territory.

But if, in spite of your care, the worst has happened and your cat has disappeared. **The most important tactic is to immediately start an aggressive search for your pet.**

An indoor cat who finds himself outdoors is not necessarily seeking an adventure. Unless he is very gregarious, he will most likely be frightened, and will very quickly go to ground. That is, he will hide and be silent. Frightened cats may crawl into or underneath things you might not expect, or they may want to get to a high place. The most frustrating aspect is that a frightened cat often will not respond to its owner's calls, or show its face.

For a lost indoor cat, start searching near your home, looking both high into trees or on roofs, and low, under cars, shrubbery, decks, and sheds. Be aware that most indoor cats are found within 160 feet of their home, or about 3-4 houses away. If you see your cat, don't yell or startle him. If he looks at you, drop to a kneeling position and coax him with a soft voice, or offer treats or food. If you saw your indoor cat running away, then follow, but talk softly and don't startle her.

An outdoor-access cat who doesn't return home when expected has usually been prevented from doing so, either through sickness or injury, becoming trapped, or being displaced from its territory due to a frightening event. Outdoor cats may also be unintentionally transported from the area, such as by entering a truck; or intentionally, by neighbors, apartment managers, or by trapping. The cat may have been "rescued" by another individual, or a humane organization. Outdoor-access cats are usually found within 1000 feet of their home, so your search will need to be broader than for a lost indoor cat.

If you don't find your cat immediately, be sure to contact your neighbors and ask them for permission to search their property and to check their sheds and garages. Make a LOST CAT flyer and offer a reward. Post the flyer in your neighborhood, as well as at banks, stores, offices, and malls. Put some flyers at kid's-eye level; children are very observant. Let your vet and local pet store know that your cat is missing. Don't forget to let the Redwood Coast Humane Society know, and give them a copy of your flyer. The RCHS can put the information on its Facebook page and website. You should use other social media in your area. Consider putting a "Lost Cat" ad in newspapers.

Spend as much time as possible outdoors near your home and make sure that the cat's access to your home isn't blocked by gates or closed cat doors. Consider using a humane trap, baited with sardines or your cat's favorite food. You may accidentally trap a wild animal, but you may also capture your hungry cat. You can try leaving a box outdoors, with a hole cut in it, and bedding inside, to tempt a frightened cat into a desirable hiding place where you can find her.

Finally, persevere in your search. Cats may be found or return home after weeks or even months. According to an ASPCA survey, about 75% of missing cats do make it home. Shelters are only able to return about 2% of lost cats, but are able to return 40% of cats with microchips. Having your cat microchipped will add a level of security such that if the cat is found by a humane organization or is taken to a vet's office, it could finally be returned to you.

\*References for this article are petmd.com, ASPCA.org, missinganimalresponse.com and vetstreet.com.

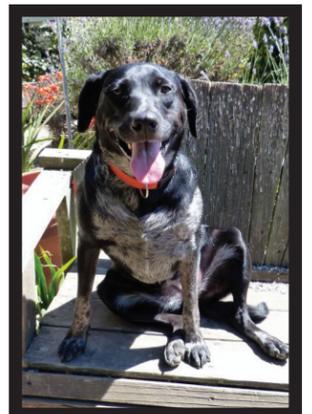
### President's Note:

If you are anything like me, you consider your pets part of the family. And as we watch the nightly news we hear of tragic cases where families endure through disasters of all kinds: fires on the west coast, tornadoes in the midwest, flooding and hurricanes in the southeast, and blizzards in the north. The families that survive are the ones that are prepared (or just lucky!). There are many good websites with information about what you should have ready to go for your pets. Some of my favorites are from the Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/pet-disaster-preparedness.html>), the ASPCA (<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>) and the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/features/petsanddisasters/index.html>).

Pam Powell and Richard Custer, two of our volunteers, are Fire Protection Specialists and have created the following "Pet To Go Bag" to help prepare your pets in the event of an emergency.

Have Ready To Go: 1) As much food and water and medications as for people (To last for 1-3 weeks); 2) Food that doesn't need a can opener, 3) Dry food in a plastic container with a screw lid; 4) Bottled water; 5) Bowls; 6) Homeopathic pet calming spray; 7) Medications; 8) Basic first aid (spray wound cleaner/antibiotic); 9) An old towel; 10) Special food rewards; and 11) A couple of familiar old toys

Please Prepare and be Safe!  
Lisa Dundee, RCHS President



Sadie