



Operation Kindness Provides Helpful Safety Tips for Pet Parents During National Lost Pet Prevention Month

Support Pet Welfare by Practicing Loss Prevention and Disaster Preparedness

CARROLLTON, TX (June 30, 2021) – Families bring pets into their lives as companions and love them for the comfort and memories they create together, but unexpected challenges, such as pets accidentally getting lost, raise concerns for their wellbeing, places undue stress on owners. To raise awareness for lost pets and provide helpful resources, [Operation Kindness](#), the leading lifesaving shelter in North Texas, is sharing pet safety information everyone can utilize to support animal welfare during National Lost Pet Prevention Month this July.

“No one expects their pets to go missing, but, unfortunately, there are circumstances in which it can happen. Pets get curious, natural disasters separate animals from their families, or they might get scared and run. We want to support pet owners and give them opportunities to prevent their pets from getting lost or utilize resources that make it easier to find them,” said Ed Jamison, CEO of Operation Kindness.

When dogs or cats get lost, finding and reuniting them with their owners can be difficult. Reunification is integral to the health and wellness of the pets, including the families who love them. National Lost Pet Prevention Month is a nationally recognized month of awareness, but tips to prevent losing a pet are practical year-round. With accessible strategies to avert lost pets and find or return them with their families, Operation Kindness encourages useful guidelines to increase pet safety during challenging moments.

Why Pets Get Lost

There are numerous reasons why pets get lost. From open windows and doors, boredom, hunting or mating instincts, dogs and cats might get excited about exploring new surroundings or scents and do not realize they are far away from home.

However, dogs and cats are also instinctual creatures, and in many other cases, situations that scare or cause them anxiety can trigger a flight response. For example, when subjected to loud noises, unfamiliar people or places, pets might need to hide by locating a safer place. Common occurrences causing pets to run away include holiday celebrations such as the 4th of July or New Years; natural disasters like hurricanes and tornados can scare pets off and often separates them from their owners.

Strategies to Prevent Lost Pets

It might be unimaginable to think about pets becoming lost, but it’s always good to prepare for a worst-case scenario. Pets are important to their families, and there are steps everyone can take to ensure they do not escape or get separated. Preventative steps include:

- **Offering a quiet and safe place** when there are loud noises. This will help them wind down and alleviate the tension or stress they might be feeling.
- **Providing distractions** such as music, televisions, toys, or snacks to keep animals preoccupied.
- **Pet-proofing the house** to ensure animals won’t find a way to escape. This includes closing all windows and doors, walking the yard perimeter to secure fencing.
- **Training pets** to recognize voices and come when called. Recall training is also beneficial if pets ever get off their leash when they’re out on a walk.
- **Microchipping** dogs and cats for proper identification ensures any pet who gets lost or separated has a means of being returned. A microchip implanted under the skin by a licensed veterinarian contains detailed information about the animal and its owner when scanned.
- **GPS tracking** to track pets who might escape from home or get off their leash. Trackers can be placed on collars or leashes and monitored through supporting tech devices.

- **Installing cameras** or monitoring systems alerting owners when there is a problem. Videos are accessible through tech, allowing pet owners to take immediate action if they find their pet is loose.
- **ID tags** as a traditional way to identify pets place essential details on a tag attached to an animal's collar; it's easily readable and one of the fastest ways to reunite pets with their owners.

Resources to Reunite Pets with Families

Aside from identification methods, there are resources available to help pet owners track their pets or provide additional opportunities to find them. Technology and community support is one of the biggest proponents of reunifying pets with their owners.

- **Databases**, such as [Petco Love Lost](#), are systems helping find missing pets. Petco Love Lost is a searchable national database using patented facial recognition technology to identify lost pets. With quick and easy searching, the online tool is easily accessible, and any individual can upload photos of missing pets. The images are scanned to determine whether the animal is located at a participating shelter or with a neighbor. Operation Kindness is a participating shelter.
- **Municipal or local shelters** intake strays and are connected to databases with resources to locate pet owners. Making a few calls also determines whether a pet has been found.
- **Social media** and mobile applications have localized community pages where neighbors can report whether they're searching for or have found a lost pet.

Natural Disaster Preparedness

Unfortunately, as much as the weather is forewarned and predicted, outcomes of its conditions are never certain. From floods to tornados to hurricanes, geographical disasters leave a harrowing future for many pet owners. To ensure pet parents protect their animals before, during and after a natural disaster, here are a few safety measures:

- **Prepare a pet kit** with necessities to care for them during natural disasters. Include a one-month supply of food and water, medications, medical records, insurance, photos, leashes and toys.
- **To protect pets** during natural disasters, do not take them outside and monitor the radio/television for updates and instructions. Keep animals in carriers/crates; have a pet kit on hand; stay away from glass, and if advised to seek shelter, pets should go with their owners or be dropped off at an emergency shelter accepting pets during disasters.

Preventing lost pets is integral to Operation Kindness' mission to ensure dogs and cats are safe, happy and thriving in a home environment. By offering guidance to pet owners and utilizing partnerships like Petco Love Lost, the shelter can further support animal welfare endeavors and work to address the complex issue of pet homelessness.

To learn more about Operation Kindness, visit www.OperationKindness.org.

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About Operation Kindness

Founded in 1976, Operation Kindness is a pioneer in North Texas for providing assistance to animals in need of medical care, companionship, and most of all, a home. As an advocate for humane values and behaviors, Operation Kindness has been able to save more than 112,500 animals since its inception. To learn more about Operation Kindness, please visit www.operationkindness.org.

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