

FINGER LAKES MISSING CAT

Tips and Resources Recommended by Frank Vacarro, 7/23/20

Finger Lakes Cats Lost and Found

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOUR CAT GOES MISSING...

Anyone who is MISSING a cat in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State may place a post on Facebook: Finger Lakes Cats Lost and Found. If you would like my help make or accept a friend request - Frank Vaccaro. Once friends, I'll invite you to be a member of those rescue groups so you'll be able to communicate within the groups. (You'll need to accept the invitation to be a member and you can remove yourself as group member anytime.)

Include photo, location and date of loss, contact information, and any distinctive markings or qualities. Location should not be address but should be street / cross streets or neighborhood.

I will attempt to share your post to rescue groups and pages in your area. Since I may not be familiar with your area, feel free to send me a listing of those Facebook groups.

Be sure to update your post with any news when your cat is found! Many interested people are helping online and they always like to hear good news.

There are many rescuers, including me, who help for free. All we want is to see stray pets reunited with their families!

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR FINDING YOUR MISSING CAT

1- If you're not sure how your cat got out, do a thorough search of your house first: closets, dresser drawers, basements, crawl spaces, etc. Cats that are in "hiding mode" probably won't meow because they are not trying to get your attention. Once you're sure your cat is not in your house start the outdoor search.

2- Indoor only cats that stray can have a harder time finding their way back than cats that are indoor/outdoor cats. If your cat is an indoor cat your cat is probably close by but will likely be in "survival mode." More about that later. If you also have a dog that's friendly to this kitty, try taking the dog for a walk nearby.

3- Talk to your neighbors, search your immediate surroundings - closed garages, in and under sheds, under bushes, up trees. Plan to search after dark, and ask your neighbors if you can search in their yards after dark with flashlights and friends.

4- While you're waiting to search after dark, create flyers to distribute in your neighborhood the next day if your nighttime search is unproductive.

5- If your cat is an indoor only cat, place items with your scent outdoors near where you think your cat escaped. You are doing this to use your own familiar scent to attract it back home. (Putting out cat's used litter is no longer advised since it can actually attract other critters or predators that might force your cat to run further away.)

6- Search those same places again after dark with flashlights and friends. The later, the better. 3-5 am is a time when cats in survival mode seem to be most active.

7- Know that as you search, whether daytime or nighttime, you are also leaving your scent as a trail for your cat to follow home. After your search, walk directly home and try simply waiting. (We recently had a gentleman put sardine oil on the soles of his shoes! It worked!)

8. Since your cat is probably in survival mode it may not respond to your normal cues of name calling, shaking treats, etc., but try them anyway.

9. Leave smelly food out at night. If it's gone in the morning consider borrowing a humane trap from a nearby rescue organization.

10- Use social media to let people know your cat is missing. Post to Finger Lakes Cats Lost and Found, one of my pages on Facebook! I can share your post to major rescue groups and pages in your area, notifying thousands of animal lovers of your situation. [Please note that I'm likely to post to pages of nearby animal hospitals and shelters. My posts to these are NOT official notices. You still should visit them personally and report your missing cat.]

11- When you go door-to-door with your flyers, talk to your neighbors as much as possible. Ask if they know who in the neighborhood feeds strays and feral cats. Focus your search at those houses. Give a flyer to your mail carrier and trash collector, ask them to keep a look out.

12- If you learn that there is a feral colony nearby, leave one if your flyers there for the caretaker to see. Please do not disturb the feeding stations or shelters!

13- Contact your local animal control officer. Even if they only take care of dogs, they will likely take the information and keep it in case anyone calls them with a found cat. Contact local vet offices and leave flyers there. Contact your local SPCA, animal shelter, Humane Society. You must actually go to these shelters to see if your cat is there though since they probably will not tell you over the phone. Be sure to ask to see "Clinic" animals and animals that have just recently been brought into the shelter. If your cat is injured or recently brought in it might be in an "Impound Room." Visit the shelter every 2-3 days since they must by law hold any stray cat for 5 days before they offer it for adoption.

14. Search rescue pages on Facebook.

15- Please understand that finding your lost cat might be either difficult or easy. Many cats come back on their own after a day or two or a week or two. Some are found after many weeks or months. Some unfortunately are never found.

16- Be persistent, patient, and hopeful. Do what you can and if you are a person who prays, pray! Otherwise send hopeful thoughts its way...

Hoping for a reunion soon!

~Frank Vaccaro

To see if someone has found your missing cat visit:

Finger Lakes Cats Lost and Found

<https://www.facebook.com/Finger-Lakes-Cats-Lost-and-Found-1525274414453885/>

For additional search resources in your area visit:

Finger Lakes Cat / Dog Search Resources:

<https://www.facebook.com/Finger-Lakes-Cat-Dog-Search-Resources-461113647410836/>

Find your county and check webpages, Facebook pages and groups...

Here is an additional resource to help understand lost cat behavior:

<http://www.maddiesfund.org/what-you-dont-know-about-lost-pets-can-hurt-them.htm>

~Jennifer Everett, Contributor

~Frank Vaccaro

Missing Cats Rochester New York

Found Stray Cats Rochester NY

Monroe County New York Lost and Found Pets

Wayne County, New York Lost and Found Pets

Orleans County NY Lost and Found Pets

Finger Lakes Cats Lost and Found.

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